

Mrs Bernadette Jones

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6th October, 2016

Dear Parliamentary Committee,

Re: Abortion Law Reform Amendment Bill

I am a resident of the electoral district of Woodridge. I am earnestly writing to you to oppose the Mr Rob Pyne MP, the Member for Cairns, (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016.

Please take the time to read why.

It is such a sad fact that Mr Pyne wishes to legalise abortion for at any time in utero, including outside the womb when a little one is born to be killed for no medical reason. He obviously feels that this legal change will allow women to act with a free conscious in accordance with a legal procedure. But the truth is, most women don't want to take this action of killing their little one (whether the law is there or not) but the pressure, the emotions, the lack of support and the circumstances overwhelm them so, that a 'quick fix' method offers a temporary reprieve from this. Unfortunately, taking this solution creates and leads to years of destructive behaviour covered with guilt, grief, depression and addictions. It is not a Bill that should be associated with the word "Health" Abortion has serious consequences. Long term trauma has been associated from abortion. It affects a woman healths, mental state and relationship breakdowns. This monetary cost is incurred by the tax payer and the State. Changing a law will not free or support mother and child from this turmoil.

I know this challenge because I was faced with an unexpected pregnancy when in my youth. I know the emotions, I know the uncertainty, the lack of support, and I also know the abandonment one feels when faced with an unexpected pregnancy. Abortion at any stage can never be a solution to compensate. The Government will never release these women from the bondage of guilt condone by a man made law. I was fortunate and

courageous to continue my pregnancy in the role as a mother. A mother is a person and should not be discouraged or seen as a thankless job. These women and men experience this change in their identity (motherhood and fatherhood) once finding out about the pregnancy. This change can never be altered or taken away by an abortion procedure. I have met plenty of other women who have always remembered this change of identity and from one particular man who have secretly shared their grief, remorse and guilt. For the decision I made, through the existence of my daughter, and as a single mother, allowed them to express (without judgement from me) their burdens from this decision. Wishing it was different. One such stranger (who was struggling with addictions) remembered the actual day her abortion took place and spoke about her 'son' who would be 18 this year! Tell me; tell women and men that a change of law would give them freedom to erase the nightmare lived daily through the remembrance of their abortion??? How the silence only compacts the turmoil experience. Please vote no this scandalous and shameful law reform!

Kind Regards

Bernadette Jones