

Health (Abortion Law Reform)  
Amendment Bill 2016

Submission No. 1159  
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**From:**  
**To:** [Abortion Bill](#)  
**Subject:** Submission regarding the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016  
**Date:** Thursday, 6 October 2016 1:03:35 PM

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Dear Sir/Madam,

I absolutely and wholeheartedly support the decriminalisation of abortion in Queensland, and the repeal of sections 224, 225 and 226 from our 1899 Criminal Code.

When I first found out that a woman and any treating healthcare provider could be charged by having or providing an abortion, I was shocked. I could not understand, that in this day and age, this could be the case.

Then I discovered that the law had been set in 1899, which gave it some context, but beyond a doubt, it is now time that the law is changed and any relevant bills are updated.

A women who needs -or wants - an abortion is not a criminal and decisions about her body and her health should never be placed in the hands of anyone else but herself. It is time for women to claim back their rights to make decisions about their bodies – as only they know what is best for them - and for the government to support it.

And for these rights and opportunities to be available for all women, as it is well documented that women living in rural and remote areas do not have the same access to healthcare to those living in metro areas. So we need to make things are streamlined and easy as we can.

I understand that some of the concerns raised during the Committee's enquiry are regarding gestational timeframes and conscientious objections by health professionals. I believe that the proposed reforms laid out in this new bill will address the Committee's concerns with a straight repeal of our Criminal Code statutes.

To that end, I support the *Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill*, in conjunction with the *Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill*.

I also I recommend to the Committee that both bills are debated and voted on together as a package on the floor of parliament, to reflect the intent of the two pieces of legislation.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my opinion on this matter.

Regards,

Sarah Flenley

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