

From:
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: {Spam?} Abortion Bill
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Dear Minister

- **Decriminalisation of abortion would mean abortion would be legal in Queensland for any reason at all, effectively until the moment of birth.** Yet only 6% of Queenslanders support this extreme position, according to a Galaxy poll commissioned by the Australian Family Association in May 2016. The survey shows that 85% of Queensland voters are opposed to late-term abortion after 20 weeks of pregnancy and 72% are opposed to abortion after 13 weeks of pregnancy. Even the 50% who would allow abortion in the first trimester are conflicted, as 45% of these are opposed to abortion for financial or social reasons (which account for about 98% of all abortions).
- Clearly, there is no majority support for changing the law to make abortion more accessible, as 42% think the law is “about right” and 11% say it is “not restrictive enough”, making a total of **53% of Queensland voters opposed to more permissive laws.**
- **The existing Queensland law against abortion stands as a safeguard for women being pressured by their partners.** They can and do appeal to the fact that abortion is against the law and is wrong. This allows women to stand up and say “you cannot tell me to do something against the law”.
- **The existing Queensland law is an essential defense for doctors and nurses who refuse to co-operate in the unjustifiable killing of human offspring.** Seventy-nine percent of Queenslanders support conscientious objection for doctors and nurses in regard to abortion.
- **The existing Queensland law against abortion has a vital educative role.** It instructs society as to the seriousness of the act of abortion, while the removal from the criminal law of any references to abortion would tell society that this form of intentional killing is morally trivial.
- **The existing law protects Queensland women against rogue abortionists,** just like the similar NSW law did in 2006 when Dr Suman Sood was convicted of illegal abortion in the NSW Supreme Court.
- **Decriminalisation inevitably would increase the number of abortions** - which 87% of Australians already think is too high, according to a Sexton Marketing Group opinion poll in May 2005. It stands to reason that if you legalise something, you get more of it, not less. Poker machines and brothels would be two examples of

this. In Victoria, two years after abortion was decriminalised in 2008, on 17 April 2010, Channel 7 News reported that the number of late-term abortions performed at the Royal Women's Hospital in Melbourne had risen six times from one a fortnight prior to decriminalisation to three a week.

- **More abortions would hurt more women. With every abortion, the toll is one dead, one wounded.** Eighty-four percent of Queenslanders believe that abortion can harm the physical and/or mental health of women. There is overwhelming evidence about the serious physical and emotional effects of abortion on women, and as a consequence, on their families. Physical risks include infection, haemorrhage, infertility and breast cancer. Psychological risks include depression and other mental illness, suicide, attempted suicide, drug and alcohol abuse, sexual promiscuity and general poor self-esteem.
- **The only changes to the law which should be considered are safeguards for women. Ninety-four percent of Queenslanders want women considering abortion to receive free independent counselling and information** on the development of the unborn baby, the nature of the procedure, the physical and psychological risks of the operation and the alternatives of keeping the baby or adoption, so they can make a fully informed decision. A cooling-off period of several days between making an appointment to have an abortion and the actual procedure is supported by 87% of Queenslanders. And 87% of Queenslanders believe that parental consent to abortion should normally be required for girls under the age of 16.
- **A much-needed policy change is for Government funding**, which currently goes only to abortion advocacy group Children by Choice, **to be significantly expanded to include pregnancy counselling services** (such as Priceless Life) which **offer real choice and support for women**, including post-abortion counselling.

Dave Charlton