

Inquiry Secretary
Health, Communities, Disability Services
and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
George Street
Brisbane QLD 4000

Date of submission

Christine [REDACTED]

Dear Secretary,

My name is Christine [REDACTED] I am 22 years old, a young mother and I strongly disagree with the Amended Abortion Bill.

Firstly, as someone who experienced lots of pressure by my peers at the time, counsellors and even 'Children by Choice' to abort my first pregnancy at 16, I'm very concerned that this Amended Abortion Bill will shut women's voices down altogether.

I was told I'd amount to nothing, I'd get fat, that I wouldn't cope financially or mentally and would become a stay at home, single mother for the rest of my life.

I was never asked what I really wanted. I was never informed about all the possible risks and side effects, which I experienced in terrible ways. Actually, nothing could have prepared me for the horror of my post-abortion experience. I couldn't even compare it with my past pains of abuse and homelessness. It even impacted my partner who lost his way afterward and ended up in jail.

After receiving post-termination counselling care from some of the Priceless House team, I knew I could make a different choice when I faced a 2nd pregnancy in my final school year.

My little girl is now 4 years old, I graduated year 12 at 39 weeks and 2 days pregnant in 2012, I graduated with a diploma in Justice Studies in 2014, I work as a RI teacher at a primary school, help as a facilitator in the Priceless Perspectives early intervention program and am currently studying a Bachelor of Justice and Psychology at QUT.

So many other women like me will be even more vulnerable to pressures to terminate their babies if this bill goes through.

I felt I was rushed and I'll never get my original choice back again.

If 10,000 abortions (what we know of through Medicare reports) are conducted each year in Queensland, wouldn't this place extra burden on our current health system, regarding the psychological and mental effects on an individual, which research indicates? Are breast cancer victims aware of the links between abortion and breast cancer (research & investigation conducted by Punam Kumar Gill in the documentary called 'Hush')? These are only a handful of questions I am raising.

Please consider all the facts before rushing into something that will potentially harm so many more of us in Queensland.

Disclaimer: I am more than happy for my submission to be published, however would appreciate if my last name was blurred for the safety of my child and address kept private, thank you.

Kind Regards,

Christine [REDACTED]