

From:
To: [Abortion Bill](#)
Subject: Abortion bill reform
Date: Thursday, 6 October 2016 3:53:47 PM

Dear Secretary,

Like his first proposed bill, Rob Pyne's second attempt to legalize abortion in Queensland poses significant risks to women's mental health. As sociologist Willy Pedersen has found in his study on the correlation between abortion and depression amongst Norwegian women, there is a "prevalence of depression among young adult women who have had an abortion. The association remained significant after controlling for a broad range of confounding variables related to sociodemographics, family and childhood, individual characteristics such as conduct problems, history of depression, marital history, and partner relationships at the time of the abortion" (Pederson, 2008, 427). Mr Pyne's amendment of current abortion legislation will only temporarily solve the problems faced by women experiencing unplanned or problematic pregnancy, but lead to increased cases of depression among post abortive women. Queensland's women deserve better health reform than this.

The most common factors influencing women to have an abortion are socioeconomic reasons related to education, employment and finances. The government should not seek to legalise such an emotional and tragic procedure as a solution to such problems. Mr Pyne seems to view abortion as a simple matter of choice. It is not. Abortion is a traumatic experience, and I believe no women would choose it unless they saw they had no other choice, or were pressured or coerced into doing so. Mr Pyne's bill does not consider these factors. He ignores the fact that Queensland law permits abortion if the mother's life or mental health is in danger, but instead proposes a reform that would leave women in situations where they experience regret and become vulnerable to coerced abortion. If laws like those proposed by Mr Pyne are passed, they will show that our society has failed to care for the needs of its women.

Not only will Mr Pyne's bill act as a justification for leaders to neglect the discussion of more beneficial and less traumatic solutions for unwanted or problematic pregnancy, but it will also increase significant acts of injustice against babies both before and after birth. Even under Queensland's current abortion law, 27 babies were born alive after failed terminations last year. However, they were not given any medical which would have been granted to a child from a wanted pregnancy. I will never understand how our civilised society can let one person's intentions determine another's humanity. It is clear that biological life is present throughout all points of gestation, and it seems unreasonable that birth could have the power to change this into human life. This suggest that human life exists before birth and should be protected accordingly. If Mr Pyne's regressive attitude is already present under Queensland's current abortion laws, I do not want to see the impact which his bill will bring.

Yours faithfully,

Ben Anderson

References:

Pederson, W. (2008). Abortion and depression: A population-based longitudinal study of young women. *Scandinavian Journal of Public Health*, 36(4), 424–428. Retrieved from <http://sjp.sagepub.com.ezproxy.library.uq.edu.au/content/36/4/424.full.pdf+html>.