

Submission to "Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016" Inquiry by Parliamentary Committee.

From
Anne Coyle,

Further to my submission regarding Mr Pyne's first Bill.

It would appear that Mr Pyne considers abortion to be the preferable way to resolve the problem of a pregnancy which may, but not necessarily does, pose a risk to the mother's life, even after 24 weeks gestation.

Early delivery, resulting in a live pre-term baby is the preferred option, is already widely practised and is covered by existing good medical practice guidelines.

After 24 weeks gestation the foetus (unborn child) is considered to be viable. I have met adults who were born at 24 weeks and later, they are vibrant and happy to be alive. I also know parents of children born about that age and they couldn't imagine being robbed of time with their precious child, even if, as in some cases, that time was short.

Abortion, by it's nature, desires and produces a dead baby! This is not a good outcome and should not be desired by a civilised society.

The Bill states that two doctors should approve an abortion after 24 weeks, it does not require that the second doctor have any direct contact with the pregnant woman. It also states that there is no penalty if an abortion provider proceeds to perform the abortion without a second doctor's approval. In other words the "two doctor" rule is cosmetic only, carries no weight and is not worth the paper it is written on!

I attended the committee hearing on the last Bill in Cairns. May I say that I was struck by the testimony of some of the abortion providers.

One provider seemed to believe fervently that this is a religious issue. May I say that while it may be a matter of faith for her, in reality it is a 'civil rights' or 'human rights'

issue. The Bill proposes that a viable unborn child can legally be killed if it's mother and one doctor agree that it should be so!

Another provider gave the impression of being hazy, even confused about when life begins, and the development of the embryo.

Human life begins at conception, this is an accepted scientific reality. Growth and development occur at a rapid rate from conception with heartbeat detectable from 21-28 days. Many milestones can be observed and measured up to 12 weeks when all organs and systems are present. We can argue about personhood, but not about human life, and I believe we owe it to each living human to protect their lives from anyone who seeks to kill him/her.

I therefore urge you to reject this Bill.

Anne Coyle,