

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

Submission No: 54
Submitted by: Adrian Prince
Publication: Making the submission and your name public
Attachments: No attachment

Submitter Comments:

I support the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024. I feel that this bill clarifies the legal and ethical obligations concerning the medical care of babies born alive during termination procedures. From a human rights point of view, this bill does have some significance when you read the following. Article 6 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights asserts the inherent right to life and states that “everyone has the right to life, liberty, and security of person. Article 24 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises the right of every child to the highest attainable standard of health and calls for the provision of necessary medical care and attention to newborns. International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights, in Article 12, emphasises the right of everyone to enjoy the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health. This includes the provision of medical care and necessary social services to ensure the well-being of individuals, including newborns born as a result of termination procedures. Abortion Law Reform Act 2019 (New South Wales) – section 11 (3) states “To avoid doubt, the duty owed by a registered health practitioner to provide medical care and treatment to a person born as a result of a termination is no different than the duty owed to provide medical care and treatment to a person born other than as a result of a termination.” Termination of Pregnancy Act 2021 (South Australia) – section 7(3) states “To avoid doubt, the duty owed by a registered health practitioner to provide medical care and treatment to a person born as a result of a termination is no different than the duty owed to provide medical care and treatment to a person born other than as a result of a termination.” With the weight that this bill carries I feel that Queensland should not remain behind other jurisdictions and bring this bill to pass so newborns who survive a termination can be protected under legislation and receive the proper medical care and treatment they deserve.