

## Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

**Submission No:** 58  
**Submitted by:** [REDACTED]  
**Publication:** Making the submission public but withholding your name  
**Attachments:** No attachment

### Submitter Comments:

I believe all Queenslanders, no matter what age or size, should be protected. Therefore I support the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024. This bill rightly seeks to codify recent changes in clinical guidelines adopted by Queensland Health, which now recognise the need for comprehensive care for babies born alive following termination procedures. These updated guidelines underscore the importance of providing appropriate medical care and attention to all newborns in line with New South Wales and South Australian legislation and in accordance with international human rights standards. The Bill seeks to clarify the legal and ethical obligations surrounding the medical care of babies born alive during termination procedures. This is a very important move. The Bill carries significant weight from a human rights perspective. Human rights need to be consistent over all States and indeed for all people no matter their age or size. This bill will ensure each child is protected and has the right to life; the protection from torture and cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment. It also ensures the protection of families and children; and right to health services. The former health minister and now Premier assured the parliament that late-term abortion would not increase under the then new laws introducing abortion up to birth. However, this has proven to be horribly incorrect. In 2018, before the abortion up to birth bill passed, 152 Queensland gestationally viable babies were killed via late-term abortion. By 2021, however, the number had doubled, with 304 Queensland babies tragically killed in late-term abortions. More late-term abortions mean more live births after a late-term abortion. In just the last two years that we have data for, 90 Queensland newborns were born alive after an abortion and did not have a legislative right to care and to be treated equally like all other newborns. This is a tragedy that needs to be corrected and this Bill attempts to do just that. Please support this bill. Leaving babies alone to die in a room by themselves or in a medical waste bin or wherever should never even be contemplated.

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I fully support this Bill. Every life should be protected regardless of age, location or situation in this country. A child who is born alive in this country should receive the same medical treatment from medical staff as any person in this country regardless of the procedure that surrounds the birth. All babies born not matter from what procedure, should be provided with medical care and treatment that is clinically safe and appropriate to the person's medical condition. I strongly agree that 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. I strongly agree that any 'relevant person', whether a registered health practitioner who performed the termination, and other practitioners, including students, present at the time the child is born alive should be required to provide the medical care that any other person would be entitled to in this country. Please support all tenants of this Bill.