

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

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I am pleased to be able to make this submission to the Inquiry into Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024. The recent expose by Courier Mail journalist Des Haughton that 90 Queensland babies had been born alive in the past two years after attempted abortions and left to die is a shocking indictment on the level of care afforded to the most vulnerable in our society by some in the medical fraternity, and the complicit silence of many who condone such heartless actions. Australia became a signatory to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) in 1990 which states, "Bearing in mind that, as indicated in the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, "the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, needs special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth". It is incumbent on Australians to always seek to protect the right to life of the child, as enshrined in the CRC. Article 24 of the CRC further states that: 1. States Parties recognize the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to facilities for the treatment of illness and rehabilitation of health. States Parties shall strive to ensure that no child is deprived of his or her right of access to such health care services. 2. States Parties shall pursue full implementation of this right and, in particular, shall take appropriate measures: (a) To diminish infant and child mortality; (b) To ensure the provision of necessary medical assistance and health care to all children with emphasis on the development of primary health care; ... I commend the aim of the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 to restore dignity and the right to life of babies born alive in Queensland and urge the Parliamentary Committee to recommend the successful passage of this bill through the Queensland Parliament.