

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

**Submission No:** 482  
**Submitted by:** Lynda MacDonald  
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**From:** Lynda MACDONALD [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 10 May 2024 3:39 PM  
**To:** HEAC  
**Subject:** Submission : Lynda MacDonald

Committee Secretary  
Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2006  
AUSTRALIA  
Fri May 10 2024  
Public Submission by Lynda MACDONALD.

Why have Australian hospitals historically spent billions of dollars on providing intensive care to premature babies? The main reason being that a baby is a human, no matter what gestation he/she is born. Life is precious and should be sustained and abcdisted to continue as long as survival is possible. There is NO difference between a live baby that occurs because of an abortion and a baby that is birthed early through natural consequences. Both deserve the "life sustaining interventions are initiated" as per the QH NN guidelines: "Peri-natal care of the extremely pre-term baby".

Protecting the most vulnerable among us is the most fundamental responsibility of the Government. The Government exists to represent the people, this is a fundamental responsibility of Government. Babies, no matter what gestation, are people. You were a baby once.

Devaluation of life in general happens when babies born alive are allowed to die. Trauma occurs for parents, staff and other family members and friends. Depression, suicide, domestic violence and many other negative sequaleae will and has occurred. The baby suffers in a cold, unloved environment until it dies, which may take 24 hours or more. Perhaps you should picture yourself as a premature infant in this setting.

I urge the committee, on behalf of the voiceless babies, to pabcd the legislation to provide on-going life sustaining care to babies born alive post abortion.

Good afternoon,

My name is Lynda MacDonald, I have been a nurse and midwife for over 30 years. I have worked in the Neonatal Intensive Care Unit at the RWH Brisbane, where I provided life sustaining care to premature babies. Some born aroun 23 plus weeks and onwards. These babies were provided with intensive medical care for months to a point where they were able to leave the hospital unit and live normal lives in the care of their parents.

Sincerely, Lynda MACDONALD

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

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