

Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024

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From: OCNMO_Corro [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 13 May 2024 5:38 PM
To: HEAC
Cc: OCNMO_Corro; OCNMO_Professional Capability; Liz Wilkes; Shelley Nowlan
Subject: NM24-0454: - Call for submissions - Inquiry into the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024 - Due 4pm on Monday 13 May 2024.

Dear Health, Environment and Agriculture Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a submission on the Inquiry into the Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024.

The Office of the Chief Nurse Officer understand that the intent of this amendment is to remove any doubt that when a baby is born with signs of life following a termination of pregnancy, care must be provided, that is appropriate to the individual clinical circumstances and in accordance with best practice guidelines. It is also understood that there are no criminal provisions proposed in the Act.

Under these understandings, the Office of the Chief Nurse Officer support the proposed amendments to:

- insert a new section (section 9A) to apply when a termination results in a live birth
- state that nothing in the Act prevents a 'relevant person' for the termination from exercising any duty to provide the person who is born with medical care and treatment that is clinically safe and appropriate to the person's medical condition
- clarify 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
- define 'relevant person' for a termination resulting in a person being born, as a registered health practitioner who performed the termination, and other practitioners, including students, present at the time.

Should you have any questions, please be welcome to contact Assistant Director of Nursing, Emily Russell, on [REDACTED]

Kind regards
Shelley

Adjunct Professor Shelley Nowlan

Chief Nurse Officer

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