

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee

Parliament House

George Street

Brisbane, QLD, 4000

Thursday, June 2, 2016

Dear Committee Members,

We are writing in regards to your consideration of the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016*.

In the event that the Committee recommends the aforementioned Bill be passed, we request that the Committee also make recommendations with respect to any future legislation concerning abortion law that this legislation includes provisions for Medical Practitioners who, for reasons of conscience on the basis of religious, moral or ethical grounds, neither wish to perform NOR refer for termination of pregnancy to be exempt from the legal obligation to do so.

Given that even under the current legislative framework there is minimal if any difficulty in women accessing abortion services, we do not think the above provision would provide any significant impediment to women accessing these services if they wish to do so.

We would respectfully request that due consideration be given to the effects that legislation directing a medical practitioner to act against their conscience would have on that practitioner from a psychological standpoint.

We would also respectfully request that the Committee consider that as freedom of conscience is one of the fundamental privileges afforded by Western Democracy, and indeed will be exercised by Members of the Queensland Parliament in voting on this legislation, that the same privilege be afforded to medical practitioners and others who will in the end be working out the practical consequences of any legislative change.

Yours Faithfully,



Dr Bryan Kenny (FRANZCOG)



Dr Heng Tang (FRANZCOG)



Dr Bradley Robinson (FRANZCOG)



Dr Kenneth Law (FRANZCOG)



Dr Rozeena Musa (FRANZCOG)



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