




Speech By
Michael Crandon

MEMBER FOR COOMERA

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TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY BILL

 **Mr CRANDON** (Coomera—LNP) (4.42 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018. I have listened to the debate, and at the outset I put on record my acknowledgement that sometimes abortion is necessary. There are many and varied reasons that make abortion the right action. Every aspect of this bill has been well canvassed in this debate. I do not intend to go over those aspects again. They are part of the permanent *Hansard* record of this parliament for all to read. I do want to reflect on a few of my own thoughts in recent times, and I note the contribution by the member for Hervey Bay. It is a very personal issue for him because he is the result of an unwanted pregnancy and may not have been here to be heard yesterday if these laws were in place back in that time.

I attended the funeral today of Des Cater OBE—that is, Over Blinking Eighty. Des was into his 81st year and his passing was expected by the family. The service included some wonderful contributions and celebrations of Des's life. One contribution reflected on the dash—that line on the tombstone between the date of birth and the date of passing. Des had a dash, and what a dash he had—rest in peace, Des—but a baby that is aborted does not have a dash and that saddens me and it should sadden all of us.

I turn now to a grave concern that I do have that was touched on by the member for Hill in his contribution yesterday. He used a specific example. We all know what infanticide and foeticide are. I fear that this bill could open the door in a domestic and family violence situation for a woman to be forced into foeticide by an abusive partner. What protections will be in place for these women, Minister? What sort of mental or physical torture could an expectant mother be subjected to in these situations from an abusive partner? Members, think about that when voting because it is a real, live situation now with the laws the way they are. Imagine what it could turn into.

I am going to finish my contribution by quoting from a submission to the committee from someone I hold in high regard. It is a one-page submission but I know there is a lot more to the story. Kerry Barham, one of my constituents, wrote to the committee and said—

I would like it registered please that I DO NOT AGREE with this tabled Bill. I believe the laws in Queensland relating to termination of pregnancy should remain as they are, thereby protecting (as much as is currently possible), the right to life of the unborn child. A late term termination of a healthy pregnancy being made lawful for any reason other than a medical emergency is abhorrent, and is in fact a backwards step, rather than a progression for women's rights and human rights in general.

I experienced for many, many years the heartbreak of not being able to have my own children, and being told that the waiting list for adoption in Queensland at that time was 10 years ... having our own family seemed impossible for us. The very thought of babies being killed for convenience sake is just so incredibly grievous that I can hardly find the words to express such a deep sadness for the would be mothers and for a society that would deem this acceptable, let alone lawful. I implore you to please, please, please consider these little lives, consider the devastation of those couples who are not able to have their own children but would dearly love them, and consider a society where it is deemed OK to 'terminate' the innocent.

I table that document.

Tabled paper: Correspondence, dated 3 September 2018, from Mrs Kerry Barham to the Chair of the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee [1665](#).

I ask all members to consider their position on this very important and emotional issue. Think of the unborn children as well as their mothers. Think of the life, the dash, they will not have. Reform is necessary but this bill goes too far. I will not be supporting the bill. In all conscience, I cannot.