

**INQUIRY INTO REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE
REFORM BILL 2019**

Organisation: Name suppressed

Date Received: 11 August 2019

Partially
Confidential

I, _____ am currently an elected councillor for the Campbelltown Local Government. On behalf of my constituents, I make the following submissions regarding the 2019 NSW abortion-to-birth bill:

After reviewing this bill, I along with my constituents are greatly concerned and call for this bill to be rejected immediately or failing that, amended reflecting the following points of concerns:

- 1) This bill legalises abortions, including late-term children after 22 weeks of conception.
- 2) This bill would legalise abortions for the selfish reason/s of sex-selection. This basically means a healthy child could be aborted by its parents simply because the parents prefer a specific sex of a child, being male vs female. Where does that sit with gender equality?
- 3) A 16 year old child can undergo an abortion procedure without the mandatory reporting being made to the Secretary of the Department of Communities and Justice. We have all been 16 or have children who are 16. Do you want to place that kind of responsibility on a 16 year old child who would be suffering from an unbearable amount of stress without some type of intervention?
- 4) Counseling is not mandatory, which might provide females to make an informed decision based on all available options. We've all had to make a hard decision at some point of our lives, and we all know that it would be unfair if we make that decision and found out later that there were other options available to us that we would have considered.

Whilst the above four points might appeal to your logical side, I think it is more important to also appeal to your human, good, reasonable and kind side.

A human life has a right to exist both prior to and post-birth. One can sit down and debate on hours on end, as to the definition of when a child is considered to be alive, but if a person of reasonable fairness takes the time to personally reflect on this question, you and I know that once a child can move, grow and feel (emotionally or physically) it has life. If that is not life, then I don't know what that is.

The only difference is that unborn child can not defend itself or make a choice for itself. One can argue that as the child can not make a choice for itself, then it is the responsibility of the parents to make these choices on the child's behalf. But where would you draw the line? Would you allow a parent to terminate their 1-month-old born child because they discover that the work of caring for a child is too hard? A helpless child is helpless whether it is 1 month before birth or 1 month after birth.

I like analogies, as they help put things into perspective and sometimes allows oneself to relate to a current situation. You, I and anyone else reading this would be able to relate to this example, as at some stage moving forward this could be any of us.

Imagine you had a hospital full of senior citizens or just normal patients, all suffering from some type of illness or disease which removes their ability to fend for themselves or make a decision regarding their existence. Remember this could be you, me or our loved ones sometime in our future.

What would your stance be, if someone tried to pass a bill legalising a next of kin the authority to euthanise that ill or deceased person without their consent, simply because they can not fend for themselves, make a decision regarding their existence or the emotional/financial burden this may impact on their next of kin.

Unfortunately, in today's day and age, the media has normalised the term "abortion" removing one's ability to comprehend and actually reflect as to what we are actually asking to do. Whilst some might argue that these may be a harsh use of words, I would say that it is realistic to define "abortion" as "the mass-murder of helpless children who can not defend themselves or voice their own concerns by those who are meant to love and care for them" I can not think of anything more selfish.

I don't envy you for having to make this decision of approving or rejecting this bill.

I am sorry that you are the person that has to make this decision as I have no doubt it is a hard one.

I pray that you can find the strength to defend all our children, born or not.

Thank you for taking the time to read this.