



Honourable Yvette D'Ath MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Training and Skills

In reply please quote: 572305/1, 3638117

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16 MAR 2017

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter of 17 February 2017, enclosing Petition No. 2633-16 titled, 'Say no to Qld abortion law reforms that do not protect women, allow abortion to full-term and limit free speech'.

On 10 May 2016, Mr Rob Pyne MP, Member for Cairns, introduced the Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 to Parliament, as a Private Members Bill. The Bill was referred to the Health, Communities, Disabilities Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee (the Committee) for its examination and report back to Parliament. The Committee tabled its Report No. 24 on 26 August 2016, making one recommendation; that the Bill not be passed.

On 17 August 2016, prior to the Committee delivering its Report No. 24, Mr Pyne introduced another Bill to Parliament; the Health (Abortion Law Reform) Amendment Bill 2016 (the second Private Members Bill). The second Private Members Bill was also referred to the Committee for its examination and report back to Parliament. The Committee tabled its Report No. 33 on 17 February 2017. The Committee did not reach agreement on whether or not to recommend that the Bill be passed.

On 28 February 2017, Mr Pyne moved a motion in Parliament that the two Private Members Bills be discharged from the *Notice Paper*, which was agreed to. Mr Pyne then moved a motion that the two Bills be withdrawn. The motion to withdraw was also agreed to.

On 28 February 2017, in a joint statement, the Honourable Anastacia Palaszczuk MP, Premier and Minister for the Arts; the Honourable Jackie Trad MP, Deputy Premier, Minister for Transport and Minister for Infrastructure and Planning; and I announced the Queensland Government's commitment to refer the current laws in relation to the termination of pregnancy to the Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC) for its advice.

The QLRC is an independent statutory body that makes recommendations on areas of law in need of reform, and submits reports to the Attorney-General which are required to be tabled in Parliament.

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As indicated in our joint statement of 28 February 2017, it is intended that the QLRC recommendations will form the basis of future legislation that the Labor Government will introduce to Parliament in its next term of Government, with a view to modernising Queensland's abortion laws.

The Queensland Government recognises that the issue of abortion generates robust debate across the community, with strongly held and sometimes opposing points of view. Please be assured that I have noted the opinions expressed in this petition.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Yvette D'ATH". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

YVETTE D'ATH MP

Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Training and Skills