



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

In reply please quote: 572305/1, 3259403

20 JUN 2016

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Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
Cnr Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie ^{Neil}

I refer to petition 2586-16, tabled in the Legislative Assembly on 24 May 2016, opposing the Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 currently before the House.

Firstly, I thank the petitioners for conveying their views on abortion to the House. The Palaszczuk Government appreciates that this issue generates robust debate in the community with strongly held points of view. The petitioners' view on this matter has been noted.

As it stands, in Queensland abortion is a crime under the Criminal Code. However, section 282 of the Criminal Code provides a defence when the abortion was performed for the 'preservation of the mother's life'.

Section 282 has been interpreted by the courts as applying where the termination is necessary to preserve a woman from serious danger to her life, physical health or mental health, which the continuation of her pregnancy would entail and, in the circumstances, the termination is not out of proportion to the danger to be averted.

On 10 May 2016, Mr Rob Pyne MP, Member for Cairns introduced the Abortion Law Reform (Woman's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016 (the Bill) as a Private Members Bill. Such bills follow the normal legislative process of being referred to a Parliamentary Committee, consisting of members of Parliament from both the Government and opposition.

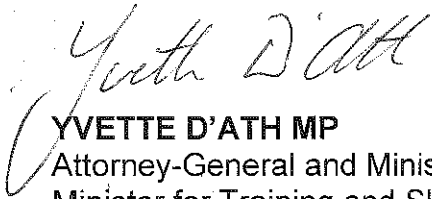
The Bill has subsequently been referred to the Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee in order to examine the Bill and report back to Parliament.

Government members will be able to vote with their conscience on this issue.

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I again thank the petitioners and trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Yvette D'ATH".

YVETTE D'ATH MP
Attorney-General and Minister for Justice
Minister for Training and Skills