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[REDACTED]

28 June 2016

Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Members,

Please accept our submission regarding the *Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016*.

In the event that the Committee recommends this 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.** We request that the privilege of freedom of conscience that is to be exercised by Members of the Queensland Parliament in voting on this legislation be afforded to us also as health practitioners.

We do not believe that our proposal would provide any significant impediment to women accessing these services should they wish to do so. Additionally 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, which in turn affects patient care.

We thank you for your consideration of our request.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Leanne Chapman MRANZCOG Dr Sabaratnam Ganeshananthan FRANZCOG Dr Hasthi Ka Ellepola FRANZCOG Dr Arupinder Kaur FRANZCOG

Dr Darsana Boban
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Dr David Chettle
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