



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING
Mr Johnathan Davis (Chair), Mr James Milligan MLA (Deputy Chair),
Mr Michael Petterson MLA

Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT

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From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - HCW](#); [REDACTED]
Subject: abortion and reproductive choice inquiry letter
Date: Wednesday, 10 August 2022 5:22:43 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing to appeal that you withhold from using taxpayers' money to fund surgical abortions. I understand that women who are in search of an abortion are often financially struggling, but as a mother of a 14 month old who is also financially struggling, I cannot stay silent. 'Children are the future', is what we used to say once upon a time. But when did the climate change hysteria make us believe that not having kids is the greatest thing you can do for the planet? In the government's eyes, when a woman gets pregnant, the most cost effective method of dealing with an unwanted child is an abortion. No doubt. I recall going to the doctor to find out I was pregnant, I was 21 at the time (not too young, really), my husband was studying at uni and making \$900 a fortnight. I was struggling to work due to the severe morning sickness I experienced - the doctor asked how I was feeling, I rightly responded that I was nervous, and the doctor straight away asked if I wanted to "go through with this". Who isn't nervous when they find out they're pregnant? Your life is forever about to change! So why are the doctors so quick to offer other options?

That's what I'm trying to get across: other options, but other options that don't involve the death of a child. I'm sorry but no matter how you slice the cake, the fact remains: a life is ended when an abortion takes place, that's just a fact. The health care system should offer abortion ONLY as a medical necessity. When a woman who is frightened, nervous and vulnerable to making impulsive choices is given the idea that her life would be a whole lot better if she wasn't pregnant, of course she is going to say yes to whatever you offer her. How about we educate, and support, women on better alternatives? How about we offer resources on crisis pregnancy centres? How about the governments support and give funding to these centres? How about we look at the root cause of why women have abortions? How about the doctors ask more indepth questions as to why a woman seeks an abortion? Surely this is consistent with truly informed consent? The government needs to take a more pro-life approach to this. You can be pro-womens' rights and pro-life at the same time, they are not mutually exclusive.

There is also a blatant disregard of the consequences of sex. Proper warnings and educational resources about using protection, and reminding girls and boys in school not to give into peer pressure to 'lose your virginity' by a certain age. I am aware that Australia has a shockingly high number of domestic abuse reports every year. Again, coming back to the pregnancy crisis centres - it is not the child's fault that they weren't conceived in a less than ideal situation, so why should they be sentenced to death? Fund crisis centres, send notice out from the ACT Health Facebook page to donate (Canberra is a wealthy city) nappies, formula, baby clothes etc.

If doctors asked more in depth questions as to why women were getting abortions, there may be more domestic abuse incidences reported, and lives saved. I know you may not even read this email, but it is important to remember there's more to this than just making something free therefore more accessible. Putting your funding to get down to the root causes of why abortions happen is important, and may save the government money. The economy and the planet relies on population growth for its survival, so why not invest in the future generations?

Sincerely,
Ruth Coleman