



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND COMMUNITY WELLBEING  
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## Submission Cover Sheet

Inquiry into Abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT

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# Submission to Inquiry into abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT

The classification of abortion solely as a health issue should be reconsidered.

Medical science tells us that human life begins at fertilisation when the biological identity of boy or girl is determined. This is followed by a continuum of development until death.

There should be a full consideration of the duty to protect unborn human beings.

Arguments that “personhood” begins when certain attributes or combination of attributes is acquired are unsatisfactory because they would also apply to some young children. Viability as an argument for “personhood” of the foetus are unsatisfactory because viability is heavily dependent on factors that have nothing to do with the characteristics of the foetus.

The current situation is that persons need to be protected by the state, but the state has no idea what a person is. Addressing “the accessibility and affordability of abortion services, and the protection of abortion rights” before seeking a scientific definition of human beings is putting the cart before the horse.

*JL Smith*

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