



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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To the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Health & Community Wellbeing,
Regarding the Inquiry into abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT I would like to make the following submission.

Abortion in the ACT is already very easy to access and people don't need any further help doing so. We are a wealthy state with no particularly remote areas or shortage of practitioners offering the service.

As a tax payer and a mother I can think of so many more appropriate things to spend money on than this already flourishing industry.

I went through three and a half years of fertility treatment to conceive my son. The condition I had is rarely covered by private health insurance so it cost around \$300 per month of treatment (including the meds, specialist monitoring, ultrasounds and tests) It literally cost us thousands to have a child.

During this time my husband and I considered adoption. We discovered quickly that that to is a long and expensive process. We were even recommended to adopt internationally because the wait for Australian babies is so long. We assumed this was because lots of people wanted to adopt and it is simply a long list, but in further discussion found it was actually because there was maybe one baby available to adopt in the state every year. Abortion is so accessible that everyone who doesn't want a child uses it and there are simply no babies to adopt. The only children being adopted nowadays are through the foster system.

So I put it to you, instead of wasting money on a service that needs no assistance at all, we put that money to things that we actually need and are good for the community.

Some examples would be; free contraception, better education about contraceptives, education about sex (it's pretty obvious that it is how babies are made yet people seem to have disconnected the action from the consequence so better teach them again), support for pregnant women, support for new mums, funding fertility services like IVF, funding adoption...I could go on.

These are things that promote physical, mental and emotional health for all women. They are things that build women up, and help create families and communities that are safe and healthy.

Abortion doesn't need more money. People trying to have families do. Families do.

Sincerely,

Tessa Keast

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