



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

Submission Number: 08

Date Authorised for Publication: 6 September 2022

From: [REDACTED]
To: [LA Committee - HCW](#)
Subject: Abortion and lack of logic
Date: Friday, 12 August 2022 9:18:49 PM

Caution: This email originated from outside of the ACT Government. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe. [Learn why this is important](#)

Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing
ACT Legislative Assembly

Dear Sirs

I note the terms of reference as to abortion and make the following observations on the terms of reference.

1. accessibility of abortion and reproductive choice for people in the ACT, including abortion medication, and taking into consideration barriers for:
 - a. non-English speakers;
 - b. victims of domestic and family violence, including coercive control;
 - c. people with a disability;
 - d. young people and minors; and
 - e. other vulnerable demographics;

Are we to support the elimination of non-English speakers? I fear you may get an enthusiastic yes from some quarters you may not like... and the same may apply for troublesome wives, disabled people etc.

2. affordability of abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT, including:
 - a. access to bulk billing general practitioners;
 - b. indirect costs such as transport, leave from work, childcare; and
 - c. options for low-income patients;

Not sure it is very sensible for a government to seek to eliminate its future taxpayers or subsidise their elimination. I rather incline these days to the opposite view as to who should be eliminated. I suspect many voters would choose to eliminate legislators and putative public servants ahead of children (who are usually much more delightful and innocent).

3. legal protections for abortion rights in the ACT; including:
 - a. comparison with other Australian jurisdictions;

- b. interactions with non-ACT legislative instruments (e.g.: with Commonwealth law);
- c. potential implications for IVF providers; and
- d. effectiveness of exclusion zones around abortion facilities;

I do not understand why it is consistent with public policy for the Crown to see its future subjects and taxpayers eliminated. It might make more economic sense to see abortion unsubsidised, if not proscribed by law.

- 4. access to information to support a variety of possible reproductive choices, including choosing to give birth;

That raises the difficult issue of whose reproductive choice since a man and a woman are usually involved. If abortion is solely a woman's choice, why should there be a child support levy requiring a man to pay? One can't have it both ways. The traditional view was that the male should accept his responsibility for leaving the woman left holding the baby. There is sense in that. Having introduced a new entity into the world, maybe they should be both made to accept responsibility.

- 5. and

- 6. any other related matters.

How does one define murder? Why should it matter if a foetus is killed 30 minutes before expected birth or a born child strangled 30 minutes after? In the 18th century the Pearl River had strangled babies floating past European mariners.

The law should have some logic if it is to command respect.

Yours faithfully

Terence Dwyer

Terry Dwyer *B.A. (Hons) B.Ec. (Hons) (Syd.) M.A. Ph.D. (Harvard), Dip. Law (Syd.), FTIA*

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

NOTICE

This email message and any attached files may contain information that is confidential and subject of legal privilege intended only for use by the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivering the message to the intended recipient, please be advised that you have received this message in error and that any use, copying, circulation, forwarding, printing or publication of this message or attached files is strictly forbidden, as is the disclosure of the information contained therein. If you have received this message in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete it from your computer and backups.