



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: 35

Date Authorised for Publication: 6 September 2022

Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing
Inquiry into abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT

Submission by: Michael J Carton and Carmel M Carton

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Submission lodged: 15 August 2022

Submission to the ACT Government's Standing Committee on Health and Community Wellbeing

Inquiry into abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT

We submit that the Inquiry must deal with the underlying causes of demand for abortion, including the influences that suggest to women that unexpected pregnancies are bad news.

The inequities in the funding of the extra costs of accessing abortion services is a gross insult to women not seeking an abortion who have to bear the extra costs not currently funded by ACT or Commonwealth governments.

In delivering pregnancy advice there must be clear and auditable separation between the adviser and the provider of any government funded abortion service. The emotive arguments are irrelevant to accountability.

We submit that educating selected groups in the community on abortion services begs the question of the adequacy of instruction on conception.

The use of 'bodily autonomy' to support abortion access ignores the obligation of a person for the health and well-being of another person in our daily lives. As every person must exist within the 16 week gestation period where is the care for 'bodily autonomy' in the issue of abortion access?

If the dignity of an individual – free of discrimination on any grounds - is so important to the ACT government the origin of every individual must be treated with the same dignity.

Michael J Carton

Carmel M Carton