



**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY**  
FOR THE AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY

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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: 27**

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To the members of the ACT Legislative Assembly Standing Committee on Health & Community Wellbeing,

We, Tobias and Tracey Preston, write to you today as lifetime locals of the Canberra region. Although currently residing [REDACTED], we ask that you would please consider our submission concerning the inquiry into abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT. Recent media releases indicate the ACT Government plans to the “affordability of abortion and reproductive choice in the ACT” (point 2 of the terms of reference) in 2023. Any push to make abortion easier or less costly is an entirely inappropriate consideration.

Perhaps in line with point 4 of the terms of reference, rather than making abortion free, the committee instead could work toward raising awareness of the support for women and men that is already existent for those who are sexually active and conceive a child. The state Government and other private organisations have many materials, payments and services that provide support and resources to assist parents in raising children - both those parents who become so deliberately, and those who find themselves pregnant unintentionally. Education and awareness, as well as community and workplace support that emphasises the ability individuals, couples and families have, as well as the ample recourses our Governments currently provide, to raise an infant should be preferred (to say the absolute least), prior to the most fleeting notion of abortion.

With regards to point 5 of the terms of reference, though it is rarely spoken of, the culture often tells those who conceive (especially women) that they don't have the capacity, skill, resources, etc. to have and raise a child. This is a present and powerful message. In a Western world that speaks so loudly of the strong, independent woman, what a demeaning thing that she is often made to feel her lack in these and other regards — your proposal to make abortions more easily available, economical, and legally protected (cf. points 1, 2 and 3 of the terms of reference) would continue to cement and reinforce these beliefs of inadequacy. No doubt having and raising a child puts women (and men) in places of “difficulty”, but in so doing does it not also provide them an opportunity to overcome these difficulties and be the strong individuals and families that we are supposed to aspire to be?

There was a time, not so long ago, when abortion was seen as a last resort. Please ask yourself what has changed in order to make abortions so readily available and culturally acceptable. Please be honest with yourself that whatever proposed stipulations may have to be checked off prior to

receiving an abortion, these will become easier and easier to cross if we continue down this trajectory.

Lastly, and perhaps most importantly, we want to address you — honoured members of the Committee. We want to give a sincere and heart-felt warning to you. Being, that God puts members of Governments into places of authority as ministers under Him in order to praise those who do good and punish those who do evil. Being in such a place of authority comes with great responsibility. It is also true that those in such places of authority, such as you who will read this submission, will stand before God to give an account of your lives and of your actions — actions such as what is done, or not done, in preventing such a heinous thing as the murder of the preborn in the womb. Rather than increasing accessibility, affordability and legal protection for abortion in the ACT, we charge you to make it the entirely unlawful thing it ought to be.

Thank you,

Tobias and Tracey Preston.

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