



Canberra Declaration

Protecting our Australian Values

13 February, 2018

Queensland Law Reform Commission

Please Do Not Decriminalise Abortion in Queensland

Dear Secretary,

This submission is made by the **Canberra Declaration** which has been signed by 78,811 Australian citizens of which 21,138 are Queenslanders. We oppose the decriminalisation of the practice of abortion, the deliberate termination of pregnancies, in Queensland.

Under the heading **'Human Life'** the Canberra Declaration states – **"We believe that all human life, being made in the image of God, has intrinsic and equal value from conception to life's natural end. The very heart of a humane and civilised society is based on the way it treats its most vulnerable and innocent members including the unborn and the disabled. We therefore insist on the right of all persons, including those who are vulnerable and dependent, to protection from conception to natural death. ... We will not comply with any directive that compels us to participate in or facilitate abortion, embryo-destructive research, assisted suicide, euthanasia or any other act that involves the intentional taking of innocent human life."** (underlining added)

In the light of what is stated in the Canberra Declaration about human life beginning at **"conception"** and **"the sanctity of human life"** we strongly oppose the practice of abortion. This submission will attempt to answer your Q-3 **"Should there be a gestational limit or limits for lawful termination of pregnancy?"** and Q-4 **"What should the gestational limit or limits be?"**.

Science confirms that from the moment of conception a new human life comes into being with his or her own unique set of chromosomes and potentialities. At three weeks, the baby's heart begins to beat. At six weeks, the baby has brain waves that can be detected by EEG. At eight weeks, the unborn baby swims freely in the amniotic sac. As the baby develops in its mother's womb <http://abortionclinics.ca/is-it-really-a-baby.shtml>, he or she can experience emotions as well as physical pain. This Ultrasound Guided Tour <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RBKKnCtNeRU> powerfully depicts the unborn baby at its various stages as a **person**. It is no wonder that many expectant mothers who are considering an abortion change their minds after seeing an ultrasound of their baby. We therefore maintain the **personhood** of an unborn baby from the moment of conception and disagree with its brutal abortion at any stage. This then precludes the setting of any gestational limits.

Because we believe abortion is **"the intentional taking of innocent human life"**, we see abortion as a crime against the **personhood** of unborn babies. We therefore call for justice for the unborn as innocent, voiceless and vulnerable persons who should be protected by our laws. The Canberra Declaration says that **"to do anything less is to weaken our humanity and to despise our personhood"**. Please recommend ways to make Queensland a state that affirms the right to life of every unborn child from the moment of conception. Thank you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

David Rowsome

for the Canberra Declaration Team & Community

Freedom, Truth, Human Dignity, Justice & Compassion

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