



Hon Steven Miles MP
Minister for Health and
Minister for Ambulance Services

22 OCT 2018

1 William Street Brisbane Qld 4000
GPO Box 48 Brisbane
Queensland 4001 Australia
Telephone +61 7 3035 6100
Facsimile +61 7 3220 6231

Mr Neil Laurie
Clerk of the Parliament
Queensland Parliamentary Service
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie 

I write in response to your letters regarding petition numbers 2972-18, 3014-18, 3015-18 and 3016-18 tabled in Parliament on 20 September 2018, petition number 3023-18 tabled on 16 October 2018 and petition number 3026-18 tabled on 18 October 2018, in relation to Termination of Pregnancy. As these petitions are similar in nature, I have taken the liberty of responding to all petitions in this letter. I therefore ask that this response be noted against each petition.

Termination of pregnancy is a sensitive issue and I acknowledge that members of the community have diverse and strongly held views. Access to safe and high-quality abortion services is a significant women's health issue worldwide, making it an important public health issue that deserves detailed, thorough and widespread consideration.

In June 2017, the Palaszczuk Government requested the Queensland Law Reform Commission (QLRC) conduct a review and investigation into modernising Queensland's abortion laws. The QLRC report, Review of termination of pregnancy laws contained 28 recommendations to amend current laws to remove abortion from the Queensland Criminal Code and introduce new legislation to clarify and modernise the law.

The Palaszczuk Government accepted the QLRC's recommendations, and in line with the 2017 election commitment, introduced the Termination of Pregnancy Bill 2018 into Parliament on 22 August 2018. The Bill reflected the QLRC's recommendations to remove termination of pregnancy from the Criminal Code and ensure termination is treated as a health issue.

In accordance with Parliamentary procedures, the Bill was referred to the Parliamentary Committee for Health, Communities, Disability Services and Domestic and Family Violence Prevention for detailed consideration. The Committee tabled its report in the Legislative Assembly on 5 October 2018, recommending that the Bill be passed and that Members be granted a conscience vote.

All Members were granted a conscience vote on the Bill, which was debated on 16 and 17 October 2018. The Bill was passed by the Legislative Assembly on 17 October 2018. The Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018 will commence on 3 December 2018.

I trust this information is of assistance to the petitioners.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S Miles', written in a cursive style.

STEVEN MILES MP

Minister for Health

Minister for Ambulance Services