

In reply please quote: 2005/02301

Your reference: 464-05

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

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 22 April 2005 forwarding a copy of a petition, tabled paper number 464-05, seeking the repeal of sections 224, 225 and 226 of the Criminal Code.

Under these provisions and section 282 of the Criminal Code, an abortion is unlawful except where it is necessary to preserve a woman from serious danger to her life or physical or mental health, (not being merely the normal dangers of pregnancy and child birth), which the continuation of the pregnancy would entail and, in the circumstances, it is not out of proportion to the danger to be averted.

Termination of pregnancy is an issue which continues to generate significant debate within the community, with strong views held on both sides. Any move to change the law concerning pregnancy termination would only be considered by the Parliament if introduced as a Private Members Bill, and be the subject of a conscience vote.

The Queensland Government has no plans to amend existing laws relating to abortion.

Thank you for referring this petition to me.

Yours sincerely

Rod Welford MP