



**CHILDREN BY CHOICE**  
ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED

## MEDIA RELEASE

# CHILDREN BY CHOICE STRONGLY OPPOSES THE TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY (LIVE BIRTHS) AMENDMENT BILL 2024

19th August 2024

Jill McKay, CEO of Children by Choice, has voiced strong opposition to the *Termination of Pregnancy (Live Births) Amendment Bill 2024* during a recent committee presentation. With a 52-year history of advocating for reproductive rights and supporting women and pregnant people in Queensland, Children by Choice is committed to upholding the progress made in reproductive health legislation and ensuring that healthcare professionals have the resources and autonomy to provide compassionate care.

In her statement to the committee, McKay acknowledged the committee's role as meritoriously elected members of Queensland Parliament, however, the ironic circumstance of presenting a bill affecting women's healthcare before a committee of six men. She emphasised the importance of including women's voices in discussions and decisions about their own healthcare, reflecting on the need for diverse perspectives in such critical conversations.

McKay addressed the committee with the following statement:

"This Bill is unnecessary, potentially harmful, and risks undermining the progress achieved with the Termination of Pregnancy Act 2018.

"The current legislation already provides comprehensive guidelines for managing terminations of pregnancy, balancing the rights of the pregnant person with professional obligations.

"Instead of imposing restrictive and stigmatising legislation, our focus should be on supporting our healthcare workforce with the necessary training and resources.

"At Children by Choice, we are dedicated to ensuring pregnant people and their healthcare professionals receive the support they need to provide compassionate, timely care. This commitment is reflected in the community wrap-around supports funded by Queensland Health, which include crucial training for those on the front lines of reproductive health.

"Passing this amendment would miss the mark on addressing the real issue. Queenslanders seeking abortion care deserve compassion, not barriers that complicate access to services.

"Our healthcare professionals should be empowered with resources and training to provide the highest standard of care, not burdened with legislation that undermines their ability to make informed, evidence-based decisions."

Queensland's current legislation represents a balanced approach, respecting the autonomy of the pregnant person while ensuring that healthcare professionals can provide care based on individual circumstances. There is no evidence suggesting that amending the legislation is needed, it will only serve to potentially punitively punish those who are seeking termination of pregnancy care or those health professionals attempting to provide compassionate abortion care.

Jill McKay urged the committee to ensure "the healthcare professionals are able to continue providing care with expertise and compassion and protect the reproductive rights of all Queenslanders by keeping the current legislation intact."





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