

The Secretary
Queensland Law Reform Commission
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Dear Secretary,

The REVIEW OF TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY LAWS

Who we are

The National Council of Single Mothers and their Children Incorporated (NCSMC) is an organisation dedicated to single mothers. The Council has become a platform whereby both the community and the Government can communicate; it has led the way in obtaining a range of beneficial outcomes; has actively sought to reduce systemic prejudice; continually challenges existing norms, and over many years has achieved improved opportunities and outcomes for single mother families. One of our greatest strengths is our expertise and commitment in working with, and for the advancement of women and children affected by poverty, hardship and or domestic violence.

Sexual and Reproductive Health-Care Services

The National Council of Single Mothers and their Children Inc would welcome changes that enhance access to sexual and reproductive health-care services to which termination of pregnancy is a critical element. It's essential that women in Queensland have progressive laws that protect and support their rights and well-being. This would include lawful, affordable and timely access to terminations performed by qualified personnel and that they can seek information and have access to specialist counselling services.

This position is consistent with the *United Nations Sustainable Development Goals*. The aim of these goals is to mobilize efforts to end all forms of poverty, fight inequalities and tackle climate change and that they universally apply to all countries. Unfortunately, Queensland who still defines abortion as a criminal offence, under certain circumstances, is out of step with contemporary national and international expectations; resultant in women having reduced rights and reproductive health-care services.

Sustainable Development Goals

By 2030, ensure universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes.



National Council for Single Mothers and their Children Inc.

Eliminate and respond to violence, hardship and inequality for single mothers and their children

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Children by Choice

NCSMC has read the *Children by Choice* Submission [January 2018](#), as a specialist organisation with direct expertise we endorse their submission which includes full and informed responses to the 10 questions.

We trust that this review conducted by the Queensland Law reform commission will led to progressive recommendations, and that they uphold human rights and social justice principles, enriching the health and well-being for the women of Queensland.

Warm regards,

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

Terese Edwards

Chief Executive Officer