

This week is a crucial one for protecting unborn children in our state. This afternoon, Richard Keith, the moderator has sent a call to action to all Presbyterian churches in NSW. It is attached below. We encourage you to read it, share it and act.

Gospel, Society & Culture committee has been working on a resource paper on abortion for several months and we are glad to release it today. Please share it, especially with people in your church. <http://gsandc.org.au/wp-content/uploads/2019/08/Abortion-20190731.pdf>

John McClean

## **Abortion bill call to action**

Brothers and sisters – you are probably aware of the Bill before NSW parliament which seeks to ‘decriminalise’ abortion. It bears the harmless title of *Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019*. But it is not a reform bill – it is quite revolutionary.

I urge you to:

1. Commit this to prayer, privately, and in your church meetings;
2. Contact your state MPs and express your opposition to the Bill;
3. Urge your congregation members to also pray and contact their MPs. As the Bill will be debated next week, we urge you to not wait until Sunday, but to contact your congregation IMMEDIATELY, through email, social media etc.

Some of the most concerning features of the Bill are:

1. It purports to make abortion a ‘health issue’ yet effectively treats abortion as a matter of lifestyle preference, by making it an elective procedure, available on request, without requiring any health or medical reason;
2. Makes abortions lawful for any reason, including discriminatory reasons such as disability or sex selection;
3. Permits late-term abortions, including abortions of viable babies up until full term;
4. Has no protection against coercion, making women even more vulnerable to pressure from their partners, family, or others;
5. Does not protect women against incompetent or unscrupulous medical practitioners;  
and
6. Provides no safeguards to ensure that women are giving informed consent.

For Christians, abortion is always a tragedy, to be limited and avoided as much as possible. This is because we seek the well-being of both the child in danger of being killed, and the mother bearing that child.

John the Baptist recognised Jesus as the Christ while they were both in their mother’s wombs – Luke 1:41-45. That means they were both humans, bearing God’s image, before birth. And that means they, and all unborn humans, have the right to life.

Not only is this Bill dangerous to women and children, it has been rushed into parliament in a hurried manner which seems like an attempt to avoid scrutiny. This is another reason for us to exercise our democratic right to hold our political representatives accountable to the electorate.

The Sydney Anglican Archbishop has called this Bill “the most draconian piece of legislation” he has “ever seen coming before our parliament”. A friendly parliamentarian has called it “the abortion endgame, and so if Christians have any desire to address abortion, this is the time to do it”.

Let us pray and act, to protect the vulnerable of our society, for the honour of our Lord Jesus, who was himself “born of a woman” (Gal 4:4).

Richard Keith, Moderator of Presbyterian Church in NSW & ACT

Further resources:

To find your state electorate, go to <https://www.elections.nsw.gov.au/Elections/How-voting-works/Electoral-boundaries>.

To find the contact details of your state representative, go to <https://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/members/Pages/all-members.aspx>.

NSW Moderator’s public statement: <http://pcnsw.org.au/docs/mediarelease.pdf>

Letter from Anglican, Catholic, and Eastern Orthodox Archbishops: <http://pcnsw.org.au/docs/letter.pdf>

Damien Tudehope, “Law allowing late-term abortions will pass - unless voters call their MPs”, *Sydney Morning Herald* 1 Aug 2019: <https://www.smh.com.au/national/nsw/law-allowing-late-term-abortions-will-pass-unless-voters-call-their-mps-20190731-p52cjk.html>

Murray Campbell, “As a Victorian, I pray that NSW will not follow our lead”, MurrayCampbell.net: <https://murraycampbell.net/2019/07/31/as-a-victorian-i-pray-that-nsw-will-not-follow-our-lead/>

Excerpt from Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019: <http://pcnsw.org.au/docs/excerpt.jpg>