



The Hon.  
**PAUL  
GREEN MLC**

Christian Democratic Party  
Member of the NSW Legislative Council  
Temporary Chair of Committees



## **Abortion Law Reform (Miscellaneous Acts Amendment) Bill 2016**

I rise on behalf of the Christian Democratic Party to speak to the Abortion Law Reform (Miscellaneous Acts Amendment) Bill 2016.

Mr President, just on face value, this bill is fundamentally flawed:

1. It removes all prohibitions against unlawful abortions without proposing any regulation to fill the gaps or address the issues this creates.
2. It does not make any attempt to understand or address the societal issues which might make women view abortion as their only choice, nor does it include any safeguards to ensure women are giving fully informed consent.
3. Mr President, it actually erodes the freedom of thought and conscience that are recognised as a fundamental human right and is disproportionate to the perceived need the bill seeks to address.
4. Finally, the bill imposes restrictions on Doctors' conscious objection that are in stark conflict with 'best practice' guidelines from the Medical Board of Australia and the Australian Medical Association (AMA).

Mr President, this bill is out of step with community attitudes and is a radical departure from the current law with profound implications for women and our community.

Rather than decriminalising abortion, we need to review our attitudes and practices to ensure there are appropriate safeguards for the well-being of the unborn child, the woman, and others impacted by the decision.

An example for much needed safeguards comes to mind – The recent NRL scandals where the women having abortions where they were not only coerced by their partners, but deeply regretful of their abortions.

Jaya Taki has revealed to Abortion Rethink via YouTube, how she considered "throwing herself in front of a train" over her decision to abort a child and suffers post-traumatic stress disorder. No one asked if this was her choice. No one offered support.

Jaya stated:

*I should be empowered by that 'choice' because I am a woman and I got to make that choice for my body... but I am not liberated, I am the exact opposite of that.*

Mr President, Jaya goes onto say:

*From having a miscarriage, from having an abortion and from having a child, I can tell you there is only one that has liberated me as a woman (PAUSE)... and that is being a mother.*

Too many women have experienced pressure, coercion, abuse, domestic violence, absence of true care and informed consent, and a general lack of information and support surrounding abortion and unplanned pregnancy.

Critically, the bill does not make any attempt to understand or address the societal issues which might make women view abortion as their only choice, nor does it include any safeguards to ensure women are giving fully informed consent.

Mr President, the Christian Democratic Party does not support this bill and encourages other Members of this House not to fall for the slippery slope that this bill aims to achieve.

I want to sincerely thank those who wrote to me and emailed me, Abortion Rethink, the many churches and NGOs for their considered support in opposing this bill.

Mr President, as a young nurse, I myself participated in a terminating a pregnancy... I saw on the ultrasound the presence of an absolutely tiny heartbeat, flicking on and off like a lighthouse light far beyond the ocean. On... off... on... off... Disappear and come back with absolute surety... Until the surgeon removed the heartbeat from the mother's womb... Then there was nothing... It was here I felt empty about what I was participating in.

At that point in my life, I was not a practising Christian, just a young nurse doing their job. However, since that time, I have made every effort to make a commitment in my heart to not be part of that again.

The last question I have for members of this House is this – How is the unborn meant to communicate its concerns?

It is obvious. It comes through us, Parliamentarians, for both the born and the unborn. We have carriage to represent those that have no voice and I implore you use your position to represent them.

**Paul Green MLC**

Christian Democratic Party

Member of the NSW Legislative Council