

LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

ABORTION LAW REFORM BILL 2008

(Amendments to be proposed in Committee by the Honourable THEO THEOPHANOUS)

1. Clause 4, after line 7, insert—
  - "(2) Subsection (1) does not apply to permit an abortion on a woman who is more than 20 weeks pregnant if the abortion is primarily because of the woman's own social or psychological circumstances."
2. Clause 5, line 12, after "pregnant" insert ", or, if the abortion is primarily because of the woman's own social or psychological circumstances, on a woman who is more than 20 weeks pregnant,".
3. Clause 5, line 18, omit "circumstances." and insert "circumstances; and".
4. Clause 5, after line 18 insert—
  - "(c) if the abortion is primarily because of the woman's own social or psychological circumstances, has consulted a qualified social worker, a psychiatrist or a psychologist registered under the **Health Professions Registration Act 2005** who also believes that the abortion is appropriate in those circumstances."
5. Clause 5, after line 24 insert—
  - "(3) Despite subsection (1), a registered medical practitioner must not perform a partial birth abortion on a woman if the abortion is primarily because of the woman's own social or psychological circumstances and there is no significant risk to the life or health of the woman.
  - (4) In subsection (3) *partial birth abortion* means the intentional termination of a foetus during vaginal delivery."
6. Clause 8, lines 11 to 18, omit all words and expressions on these lines and insert "practitioner must inform the woman that—
  - (a) it is not illegal in Victoria for an abortion to be performed in certain circumstances; and
  - (b) the practitioner is unable to assist the woman as the practitioner has a conscientious objection to abortion."