

Urgent update re abortion bill in Victoria

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED VERSION FOR LINKS TO WORK

Dear pastor/leader,

The relentless attack by the pro-abortion lobby in Victoria is unprecedented in Australia and has been successful to the extent of 49 votes to 32 at the third reading of the bill in the Legislative Assembly. It was passed intact with none of the numerous amendments being passed.

This bill allows abortion for any reason up to 24 weeks on demand and then after 24 weeks through to term if considered “appropriate” by a doctor who only has to consult with another doctor who also considers it appropriate. There is effectively no restriction. No counselling is required, nor is there any “cooling-off” period.

Incredibly, built into this bill – and the amendment to cut this failed – is a clause that says that doctors who conscientiously object must refer on to a doctor who they know has no such objection. This also is unparalleled in Australia and violates a fundamental principle of medical practice. Doctors can be charged under this law and then de-registered. See the letter from Medicine With Morality for the full implications of this.

The bill goes to Victorian upper house next Tuesday 7 October. But it is already a sad reflection on Victorian MPs that this bill could pass the lower house without any amendments. MPs had a conscience vote on this issue and have ruled out conscience medicine. But remember that Emily’s List website boasts that 113 women out of 152 Labor MPs in Australia are members of that organisation and have specific agendas. (Now, there’s a good reason to elect MPs of strong Christian principle and fortunately in WA we now have four new MPs that fit into this category in our new state parliament.)

Maybe God has “allowed” this attack as it has at last awakened doctors in an unprecedented way. A letter has gone to Vic upper house MPs signed now by around 200 doctors in Victoria and the letter from Medicine With Morality signed by 150 doctors from elsewhere in Australia. A new grouping of doctors has been formed Doctor’s in Conscience Against Abortion Bill <http://www.doctorsconscience.org>. There are protests scheduled and responses from very prominent citizens and organisations.

This is a matter for urgent prayer. We don’t just want the conscientious objection clause thrown out and MPs bargaining to retain the rest of the bill “because we have given way on this point” – we want this bill completely thrown out. In fact it is not even necessary because it only gives legal sanction for what is already practice in Victoria (allowed by the Menhennit ruling in court) and has been pushed by the abortion lobby (“don’t you dare get in our road”) and the few doctors who do late abortions against what is still on the statute books and who therefore feel nervous even though no charges have ever been laid.

Eugenic selection of even minor correctable abnormalities such as cleft lip has crept in under the radar in Victoria. This also is not something for which we should give legal sanction. Please inform your people and pray. Feel free to pass this on as appropriate.

Lachlan.