

The NSW Abortion Debate 2019



Margaret Tighe

Australia has recently been reminded of its disgraceful record on government-funded abortions with the NSW parliament engaged in a fiery debate over the total legislation of abortion until birth!

To our utter disgrace this is now the situation in Victoria, Tasmania and Queensland with South Australia poised to follow suit after the usual "government inquiry". Amazingly Sydney has been rocked by large anti-abortion protests in its streets and outside its parliament. Clearly the churches have played a major role in turning out the protestors.

The sad reality is that abortions have been widely available in New South Wales for many years – late abortion included.

An abortion clinic even operated opposite the NSW Parliament building in Macquarie Street. Many years ago, on enquiring at a well-known Sydney abortuary. I was told I could have an abortion up till 22 weeks! So – what's new?

Sadly, passage of this bill in Parliament will serve to legitimise the killing of the unborn – from 22 weeks and after if two doctors and the woman agree.

And – it will lead to the killing of more and more children in the womb and the further dehumanisation of the smallest Australians.

At time of writing, the offending bill had passed through the Legislative Assembly (59:31) and partially through the Legislative Council (The second reading passed the Legislative Council (26:15) where it now awaits the final vote.

Parliament resumes on 17 September 2019. Please continue to contact your representatives up until the final vote!

Margaret Tighe, PRESIDENT

Federal MPs and the Abortion Debate in NSW

Excerpt from SBS News 22 August 2019.



Hon Barnaby Joyce
MP

In recent weeks, the former Nationals party leader, **Hon Barnaby Joyce MP** who now sits on the backbench, has taken a leading role in the fight against the push to decriminalise abortion in NSW. Earlier this month MR Joyce went out of his way to share an anti-abortion statement on the floor of Parliament, declaring that no one should have the "power today to declassify another person as less than human, and by doing so removing their most fundamental right to be alive".

Comment from Ed: As well, Hon Barnaby Joyce MP was a leading speaker at one of the pro-life rallies outside the NSW parliament.

Up to 10,000 people rallied to stop abortion bill in New South Wales



Written by Jane Landon. Jane is a supporter of Right to Life Australia who was very active during our Federal Election campaign in Bennelong Electorate. Picture by Aleshia Fewster.

Pro-life protestors gathered for a vigil at Martin Place, Sydney on Tues 20 August 2019 at 6pm. The rally was to oppose the abortion bill being debated in Parliament House. It was fantastic to see so many people gathering for such an event. Estimate of crowd in attendance was up to 10,000 people, potentially the biggest turnout ever for a pro-life rally in Sydney.

It was such a positive and uplifting feeling to be at the vigil - there was a collective desire for political change. People became united with strangers they had never met before and there was a shared camaraderie. Everyone was joined together in a unity to do something to save the lives of unborn babies. The crowd were united in their outrage at the proposals of the Reproductive Health Care Reform Bill 2019 before NSW Parliament.

There were a number of speakers who all gave excellent presentations including leaders of religious groups- Catholic Archbishop Anthony Fisher, the Melkite Greek Catholic Bishop Robert Rabbat, Greek Orthodox Archbishop Makarios, Anglican Archbishop Glenn Davies, and the Armenian Orthodox Archbishop Haigazoun Najarian.

New South Wales state politicians also addressed the rally including Greg Donnelly MLC and Damien Tudehope MLC. They were followed by the CEO of NSW Right to Life, Dr Rachel Carling then Mr Martyn Iles, Managing Director Australian Christian Lobby. Federal Nationals MP Hon Barnaby Joyce gave a tremendous finale to the programme.

We walked to NSW Parliament House where I could hear some young men beating drums to support the protestors. It was a very powerful and supportive feeling to be there. – all united to voice our opposition to abortion up to birth.

Reproductive Health Law Reform Bill 2019

How your NEW SOUTH WALES MPs voted

Second reading vote
LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL

Ayes: 26 Noes: 15

Majority: 11

AYES 26

Blair, Mr
Boyd, Ms A
Buttigieg, Mr M
D'Adam, Mr A
Faehrmann, Ms C
Fang, Mr W
Field, Mr J
Franklin, Mr B
Graham, Mr J
Harwin, Mr D
Hurst, Ms E
Jackson, Ms R
Khan, Mr T
Mallard, Mr S
Mitchell, Mrs
Mookhey, Mr D
Moriarty, Ms T
Pearson, Mr M
Primrose, Mr P
Searle, Mr A
Secord, Mr W
Sharpe, Ms P
Shoebidge, Mr D
Taylor, Mrs
Veitch, Mr M
Ward, Mrs N

NOES 15

Amato, Mr L
Banasiak, Mr M
Borsak, Mr R
Cusack, Ms C
Donnelly, Mr G

Farlow, Mr S
Houssos, Mrs C
Latham, Mr M
Maclaren-Jones, Mrs
Martin, Mr T
Mason-Cox, Mr M
Moselmane, Mr S
Nile, Revd Mr
Roberts, Mr R
Tudehope, Mr D
Did not vote:
Ajaka, Mr J

Members of the Legislative Assembly who voted for and against the abortion bill on 8 August 2019, which passed Third Reading by 59 to 31: (Majority 28)

AYES: 59

Jenny Aitchison (ALP)
Kevin Anderson (Nat)
Stuart Ayres (Lib)
John Barilaro (Nat)
Clayton Barr (ALP)
Gladys Berejiklian (Lib)
Roy Butler (SFF)
Prue Car (ALP)
Yasmin Catley (ALP)
A Chanthivong (ALP)
Justin Clancy (Lib)
Andrew Constance (Lib)
Steph Cooke (Nat)
Sophie Cotsis (ALP)
Tim Crakanthorp (ALP)
Adam Crouch (Lib)
Michael Daley (ALP)
Helen Dalton (SFF)
Victor Dominello (Lib)

Philip Donato (SFF)
Trish Doyle (ALP)
Lee Evans (Lib)
Alex Greenwich (Ind)
James Griffin (Lib)
Christopher Gulaptis (Nat)
Shelly Hancock (Lib)
David Harris (ALP)
Jodie Harrison (ALP)
Jo Haylen (ALP)
Brad Hazzard (Lib)
Alister Henskens (Lib)
Ron Hoenig (ALP)
Matt Kean (Lib)
Jenny Leong (Green)
Paul Lynch (ALP)
Adam Marshall (Nat)
Jodi McKay (ALP)
David Mehan (ALP)
Chris Minns (ALP)
Marjorie O'Neill (ALP)
Ryan Park (ALP)
Jamie Parker (Greens)
Melinda Pavey (Lib)
Greg Piper (Ind)
Geoff Provest (Nat)
Janelle Saffin (ALP)
Dugald Saunders (Nat)
Paul Scully (ALP)
Gurmesh Singh (Nat)
Tamara Smith (Green)
Liesl Tesch (ALP)
Paul Toole (Nat)
Lynda Voltz (ALP)
Gareth Ward (Lib)
Greg Warren (ALP)
Kate Washington (ALP)
Anna Watson (ALP)
Leslie Williams (Nat)
Felicity Wilson (Lib)

NOES 31
Edmond Atalla (ALP)
Stephen Bali (ALP)
Stephen Bromhead (Nat)
Kevin Conolly (Lib)
Tanya Davies (Lib)
Jihad Dib (ALP)
David Elliott (Lib)
Julia Finn (ALP)
Melanie Gibbons (Lib)
Michael Johnsen (Nat)
Stephen Kamper (ALP)
Nick Lalich (ALP)
Geoff Lee (Lib)
Wendy Lindsay (Lib)
Hugh McDermott (ALP)
Joe McGirr (Ind)
Tania Mihailuk (ALP)
Dominic Perrottet (Lib)
Eleni Petinos (Lib)
Robyn Preston (Lib)
Anthony Roberts (Lib)
Peter Sidgreaves (Lib)
John Sidoti (Lib)
Nat Smith (Lib)
Mark Speakman (Lib)
Rob Stokes (Lib)
Mark Taylor (Lib)
Wendy Tuckerman (Lib)
Gabrielle Upton (Lib)
Ray Williams (Lib)
Guy Zangari (ALP)

Did not vote:
Coure, Mr M (Lib)
Hornery, Ms S (ALP)
O'Dea, The Hon J (Lib)

Dr Gillespie urges Nationals colleagues to consider state abortion bill carefully



Dr David Gillespie

*Carla Mascarenhas Excerpt
Reproduced from Wauchope
Gazette 21/8/19*

Federal member for Lyne Dr David Gillespie had this to say: He believes the legislation is unnecessary because abortion was "decriminalised in 1971 and it is not a crime if you have a lawful abortion in NSW". "No person has been charged under the Crimes Act bar two

cases," he said.

"One was a lady who at 28 weeks pregnancy tried to self-terminate her own pregnancy, and another was an unregistered medical practitioner."

He said he was particularly concerned by abortions after 22 weeks based on "embryology, anatomy and physiology".

Dr Gillespie previously worked as the director of physician training at Port Macquarie Base Hospital.

"You are dealing with abortion of a human being that has got a separate circulation and nervous system, all those things make up a human being," Dr Gillespie said

"A child in the womb is another human being and deserves protection."

"A child doesn't miraculously become a human being once it pops out at delivery."

REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH CARE REFORM BILL 2019

New South Wales Parliament debate



6/8/2019
The Hon. Mr DOMINIC PERROTTET
MLA (Epping–Treasurer) (LIB)

“Today we have a choice set before us that goes to the core of who we are and who we want to be, a choice that will define us as a parliament, as a place and as a people. That choice is whether we recognise that the unborn also have

human rights. I believe the purpose of this Parliament is not to be a platform for the privileged but a voice for the voiceless vulnerable who cannot speak up for themselves. On this issue the supporters of the bill are ignoring that obligation. They are also on the wrong side of history.”



7/8/2019
Mr Stephen BALI MLA (Blacktown)
(ALP)

“People have expressed concerns that after 22 weeks a doctor need only consult with another doctor to gain consent. The second doctor does not need to meet the woman. Where is the accountability as to whether the first doctor has provided full

disclosure? There are too many examples where doctors have got their diagnosis wrong or have given their interpretation of what they think is best for the patient, which has turned out to be less than acceptable when other opinions have been sought. People have real concerns about late-term abortions. Whilst the bill refers to some medical examinations, there is nothing to stop a woman ignoring medical advice and undertaking self-administered abortion.”



20/8/2019
The Hon. ROBERT BORSAK MLC: (SFF)

“If it is so important that a woman can have a termination on demand—and not be at risk of being charged with a criminal offence—why try to sneak it through? Why try to risk it if you already have the numbers? When the media first started to report about the bill, I originally thought it

seemed only right for me to support the bill and have the offence taken out of the Crimes Act. An archaic idea like abortion being in the Crimes Act should go. But then the calls started coming in. My office cannot keep up with the calls that have absolutely inundated us. People begging, pleading, yelling, crying, screaming and threatening. Why? Not because they did not agree that it should not be in the Crimes Act, but because they understood the details of this bill and that it should not be rushed through in this way.”



20/8/2019
The Hon. MARK LATHAM MLC (PHON)

“Similarly, in a civilised society by whatever means, by whatever intent, if babies are born alive they cannot be allowed to perish, left to die on hospital tables and trolleys. There must be an obligation for the medical profession to fulfil its ultimate humane obligation to society, to save lives and preserve life.

For some doctors and nurses abortion represents the ending of human life and many have legitimate religious and other moral objections to it. These should be respected in the legislation, yet in the bill the religious freedom of doctors and nurses not to participate in the process has been wiped.”



20/8/2019
The Hon. LOU AMATO MLC (LIB)

“The second example is an Australian study that followed over 1,200 women in Queensland. It was published in 2008 by Kaeleen Dingle and her colleagues. Kaeleen Dingle is a senior lecturer in epidemiology at the Queensland University of Technology. The Dingle

study followed 1,200 girls over seven years. The girls were all aged 14 at the start of the study and were followed until the age of 21, by which time roughly 380 girls had become pregnant. Dingle and her colleagues compared the girls who had abortions with the girls who gave birth. The key findings of the Dingle study were that, among girls with no pre-existing problems before they were pregnant, abortion was associated with more than double the rate of alcohol abuse when compared to birth, and abortion was associated with 3.6 times the rate of illicit drug use when compared to birth.”

“To the proponents of the bill, this research and similar studies from around the world represent an inconvenient truth to be systematically denied and suppressed. To the supporters of the bill, the blind subservience to politically correct orthodoxy, which I mentioned earlier, is all consuming.”



21/8/2019
The Hon. GREG DONNELLY MLC (ALP)

“The truth of the matter is the indisputable fact that the deliberate termination of a pregnancy can never be healthy for the unborn. Deliberate pregnancy termination extinguishes the life of the unborn. Abortion by whatever means

kills the unborn. That is the intention and that is the outcome. In my view we should be frank enough to say this, acknowledge it and accept the consequences of what a law arising from our debate and final vote actually does when fully implemented and enforced. I believe that the debate in this Parliament prosecuted by those who want the bill passed has deliberately avoided staring this reality of this potential law in the eyes and acknowledging its consequences, both intended and unintended, for both the unborn human being and women.”

WA Euthanasia Recommendations even “more extreme” than Victoria’s.

The Government of Western Australia is looking to introduce laws more liberal than Victoria’s euthanasia laws. An expert panel in its recent report recommended that patients should be eligible if they are likely to die within 12 months. This differs from Victoria where terminally ill people must have less than 6 months to live.

An expert panel, chaired by former Governor Malcolm McCusker, recommended nurse practitioners be able to complete the second assessment for patients to have euthanasia. This differs from Victoria again, where eligibility for euthanasia can only be approved by 2 doctors. Patients with Alzheimer’s or dementia would be excluded under the panel’s recommendations.

Differences between Victoria and Western Australia

Victoria

- Eligible if given an assessment of having no more than 6 months to live, or 12 months with a neurodegenerative diagnosis
- Assessment of patient’s eligibility can only be made by 2 doctors
- Only patients are permitted to begin the conversation of voluntary assisted dying
- A patient must be a resident for at least 12 months to make a request for euthanasia

Western Australia

- Eligible if likely to die within 12 months
- Second assessment of patient’s eligibility can be made by a nurse practitioner
- Doctors will be allowed to raise the subject of euthanasia with their patients
- Euthanasia will be available to those who have lived in WA for less than 12 months, if approved by the State Administrative Tribunal. The panel cited WA’s large fly in fly out population as the justification for this recommendation.

Meanwhile, Australian Medical Association WA president Omar Khorshid said he was disappointed in the report’s recommendations.

Dr Khorshid said there were some stark differences between the Victorian legislation and the panel’s recommendations for WA. “The one that I think will have the most impact is the fact that any two doctors, or in fact just a doctor and a nurse, can take a patient through this pathway without having to seek any form of approval,” he said.

Dr Khorshid also took issue with the broad timeframe within which a patient can be eligible to be considered for voluntary euthanasia. “The longer the period, the more difficult it is to be sure,” he said. “And there’s no doubt that by picking 12 months instead of six months like Victoria, that it’s going to be harder for doctors to be sure, and it’s going to really broaden the number of people that are potentially eligible for voluntary assisted dying.”

Please continue to contact your representatives in the Legislative Assembly (1 MP) and Legislative Council (6 MPs in your region) until the final vote is taken.

We have sent extensive material to supporters in WA to assist with writing, emailing and phoning your MPs. If you need assistance please do not hesitate to call us or email rtl@rtlaustr.com



Hon Nick Goiran MLC –
Legislative Council Western
Australia – A champion
against euthanasia.

“This is a cult of suicide and death that I want no part of. In response to the challenges of suffering and despair there is always a better way than killing.”

*Extract from Hansard [COUNCIL–
Thurs 10 April 2014] p2449b-2458a
Hon Nick Goiran MLC*

*When you die –
Help someone to live!*

*For those of you who wish to remember in your
will a really worthy cause please remember the
work of Right to Life Australia.*

*Right to Life Australia is the leading voice in
Australia against the deadly practice of abortion
and euthanasia.*

*We do this by advocacy of politicians and
members of the public.*

*As well we finance the important work of Pregnancy
Counselling Australia – a 24 hour help line for
women with unplanned pregnancies, which is also
promoted by other organisations around Australia.*

Please use the following wording:

**I give, devise and bequeath to The Right to Life
Australia Inc, Registration Number A0042146V and
ABN 12774010375 of 161a Donald St, Brunswick
East, in the state of Victoria 3057, xx % of my
residuary estate,**

**(OR the sum of \$xxx xxx for the general purposes
of The Right to Life Australia Inc.**

*For more information please contact us on
rtl@rtlaustr.com or ph (03) 9385 0100*

**“Whoever saves a life – Saves the world”
[Recent German movie on Nazi euthanasia program
named “Never Look Away”]**

OUR COUNSELLORS CONTINUE TO STAND IN THE GAP

NEWS FROM OUR OUTREACH SERVICE - PREGNANCY COUNSELLING AUSTRALIA

Please take the enclosed flyer and place in your church, office or other venue to encourage women (and men) to utilise our life saving service

Our counsellors continue to stand in the gap for women facing an unplanned pregnancy. The prevailing worldview loudly proclaims: "My Body, My Choice". It is not politically correct to even suggest that may be terminating the life of an unborn baby is not morally right. Yet when women are personally in that position of experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, they can be very conflicted.



Lois Dean, Co-ordinator
Pregnancy Counselling
Australia

Our callers appreciate having someone to listen to the challenges they're facing with their unplanned pregnancy in an open, caring and non-judgmental atmosphere. Callers like these:

Amber calls in tears, struggling to talk. "I'm single and 10 weeks pregnant to a good friend of mine but we're not really a couple. I'm finding it so hard. There's all this talk in the media at the moment about abortion and how it is a woman's right. It's so upsetting. I've looked forward to being a mother but I feel so judged by my friends. They think I should just have an abortion, that it's a simple thing... I haven't told my friend yet, I just need to be strong enough to tell him and to be ready to say I want to have this baby." Amber was so grateful to be able to talk about her dilemma with our counsellor. She stopped crying and calmed down. She felt empowered to call her friend. Amber was also given the number of a local Pregnancy Support Centre where she can obtain on-going support.

When Nicole rang she was feeling bad. She had booked a termination for a few days time but she was having second thoughts. She just wanted to have a chat with someone who would listen and enable her to sort out her own thoughts. She was married to a good man and they had 2 children. She'd just landed a new job and so they thought that it's not the right time to have another baby. But then Nicole said, "I don't think a new job is a good reason to terminate a pregnancy." Nicole said that when she thought of her 2 children whom she loved so much, she just didn't think she could go through with the termination. Our counsellor was able to affirm Nicole's desire to continue the pregnancy and for having the courage to listen to her own heart. Nicole decided to let her doctor know that she had changed her mind about the termination. She thanked our counsellor and asked if she could call back if she needed to chat some more.

Pregnancy Counselling Australia continues to need women who are willing to be trained as volunteer counsellors who will set aside time weekly to be on our phone counselling roster. If this is you, please contact Lois at admin@pregnancycounselling.com.au

Lois Dean – Co-ordinator

40 Babies Born Alive Following Failed Abortions Over Three Years

Reproduced from Society for the Protection of Unborn Children, London, United Kingdom 22 August 2019



40 babies have been born alive after failed abortions 2016-2018 in USA Florida, Minnesota, Arizona

SPUC has questioned the figures surrounding abortion survivors in the United Kingdom, after it has emerged that at least 40 babies were born alive after failed abortion attempts between 2016 and 2018 across three American states.

The new state data has been described as 'disturbing' by SPUC Chief Executive, John Smeaton, after it revealed that following failed abortions, 19 babies were born alive in Florida, 11 in Minnesota and 10 in Arizona across a period of three years.

According to *Fox News*, The US Centres for Disease Control, (CDC), believe that at least 143 babies were born alive after failed abortion attempts in the USA between 2003 and 2014, whilst research compiled by the American Center for Law and Justice, suggests that figure to be much higher, estimating that there have been 362 US abortion survivors between 2001-2010.

alive and discarded as medical waste, until a nurse heard her cries.

....According to *The Mirror*, a spokesperson for one of the UK's largest abortion giants, Marie Stopes, has said that: "The chance of a termination failing is very low. In the UK, around 0.02% of women who have had a surgical abortion will require a further procedure."

According to the UK's most recent abortion statistics, this would point towards an average of 19 failed abortion attempts per year.

AUSTRALIA TOO HAS ITS SHARE OF BORN ALIVE ABORTIONS!

The 2019 March is on **Saturday, 12 October 2019**



MARCH FOR THE BABIES

Why Has New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern Betrayed the Disability Sector?

Reproduced from Media Release 24 August 2019 - Ken Orr,
Spokesperson, Right to Life New Zealand www.righttolife.org.nz

More than half of the unborn children in New Zealand with Down syndrome are killed before they are born. This is a violation of their human rights and a crime against humanity.



Right to Life believes that this is state sponsored genocide disguised as health care against a clearly defined group within our community.

Can the Prime Minister, Jacinda Ardern, be trusted?

In 2017 she made a promise to the disability community

in response to concerns expressed by the Saving Down's advocacy group that the new abortion bill would remove the current 20 week prohibition and allow abortions up to birth for foetal abnormality.

The Prime Minister responded, "They have said till 40 weeks, which is wrong, which is wrong. We have time periods already set out in law, I am not proposing changes to that. I am proposing it comes out of the Crimes Act."

Right to Life asks the Prime Minister why she has directed that the Abortion Legislation Bill allow for the killing up to birth of children before birth who may have a disability, including Down syndrome. The current abortion legislation under the Crimes Act allows for the killing of a child before birth up to 20 weeks "where there is a substantial risk that the child, if born, would be so physically or mentally subnormal as to be seriously handicapped."

Down syndrome is considered a mild to moderate disability and Right to Life therefore protests at the killing of any of these special children who are gift to the community.

Between 2009 and 2017 it is estimated that 694 children with Down syndrome were killed before birth in abortions in New Zealand. There is an international campaign to eliminate Down syndrome by killing these children before they are born. In Europe many countries have an abortion rate for Down syndrome of 90%, in Iceland it is nearly 100%.

Government funded screening for Down syndrome and other disabilities is offered to all pregnant women in New Zealand. Right to Life believes that this screening is a search and destroy mission that promotes the belief that only the perfect have a right to life.

Those women whose screening reveals a high risk of a baby with Down syndrome are offered an abortion by the government and encouraged to terminate the life of their child, this would contribute to the average annual abortion rate of 62% for Down syndrome.

The Abortion Legislation Bill 2019 driven by the Prime Minister holds that abortion does not kill an unborn child and that the child has no rights until it is born.

The Prime Minister would therefore logically believe that a child with Down syndrome is not a human being and has no right to life. Right to Life asks then, is it your objective to encourage the extermination of children with Down syndrome in New Zealand through their violent termination up to birth? Why are the Churches and the media silent?

(See NZ Parliament website for submissions to the Select Committee closing 19 Sep 2019 www.parliament.nz/en/pb/bills-and-laws/bills-proposed-laws/document/BILL_89814/abortion-legislation-bill)

More terminally ill Victorians meet euthanasia criteria to end their lives

Excerpt from article By Matt Johnston, Herald Sun – 28 August 2019

A growing number of terminally ill Victorians have met the criteria for the state's euthanasia scheme, and have been approved to access life-ending medication.

Eleven terminally ill Victorians have been granted permits to access lethal medication if they choose, under the state's first voluntary euthanasia scheme. The Herald Sun can reveal that the patients were assessed by at least two doctors and met strict criteria which includes having less than six months left to live. This means they can now be prescribed lethal medication, which must be kept in a locked box before being self-administered.

Bendigo woman Kerry Roberston, 61, became the first person to use the laws in Victorian history last month, following a decade-long battle with cancer.

She died in a nursing home, surrounded by family. It is unclear whether any of the other 10 Victorians who sought approval have accessed or taken the life-ending drugs.

In the days leading up to the laws taking effect on June 19, about 100 Victorians had expressed interest in using the scheme.

The first report by the Voluntary Assisted Dying Review Board – led by former Supreme Court Justice Betty King QC – on the scheme's early days was tabled in state parliament today. Reports are compiled every six months, and this one only covers the first 11 days of the scheme up to June 30. Ms King said the number of people accessing euthanasia was low, but that a lot of work had gone into preparing health specialists who can approve patient requests.

More than 300 doctors, cancer specialists, and palliative care clinicians have undertaken training around the state so far. Former Supreme Court Justice Betty King said more detailed information would be provided in future reports – but it was important to protect the privacy of those using the laws. "Releasing deidentified data in the future reports will help the community have informed discussions about what is a very sensitive topic," she said.

"It will also help us in making recommendations to improve how the law operates." Health Minister Jenny Mikakos said voluntary assisted dying "is giving Victorians suffering with an incurable disease a genuine and compassionate choice at the end of the lives".

"This model is the most conservative in the world, with 68 safeguards, reflecting the will of the Victorian people," she said. "The privacy and safety of Victorians who are suffering at the end of their lives – and that of their doctors and loved ones – remains paramount."

matthew.johnston@news.com.au

NATIONAL RIGHT TO LIFE (USA) CONVENTION 2019 - Mary Collier

In July 2019 the Committee of Right to Life Australia supported me to travel to attend the USA National Right to Life Convention 2019 held in Charleston, South Carolina. There were approximately 700 delegates to the conference. In addition, in adjacent rooms young pro-lifers held their own 2day conference called the National Teens for Life Convention. It was uplifting to visit a country which has pro-life bills being debated in various states and a good opportunity to network and be in the company of pro-life Americans. I found it difficult as a trained dietitian to see, however, the number of morbidly obese people living in the USA where a diet of fat and sugar is promoted by signs everywhere!

At the opening lunch on the first day of the Convention we were honoured to have as guest speaker Governor Henry McMaster.

Governor McMaster pledged to do what he can to politically support the efforts of pro-life South Carolinians related to a personhood bill which would stipulate that life begins at conception and grant the unborn at that moment all rights as any other citizen. He added he would also be supportive of the state's "heartbeat bill," which passed the House 70-31 on April 24 and has yet to get a hearing in the Senate.

He said "When the personhood bill gets to my desk, I will sign it," to our cheering and clapping.

A few of the interesting speakers:

James Bopp Jnr JD is counsel for National Right to Life and gave a very interesting presentation called "Pro-life Strategy Issues". The presentation centred around his opinion that currently only Justice Thomas has said, in a judicial opinion that Roe v Wade should be overturned. He stated that the Supreme Court must be willing to consider overturning Roe v Wade and that this was an **incremental process**, not just related to the appointment of a pro-life Supreme Court judge. He said the Court is loathe to switch sides just because a new Justice joins the court.



**Governor Henry McMaster – South Carolina and myself
at the Opening Luncheon**

A joint presentation was given by Ashley Bratcher and Melissa Cole. Ashley is the actress in the movie "Unplanned" currently being screened in Australia. She gave a very emotional testimony which included little known fact that her mother nearly aborted her.

Melissa Cole gave birth to her baby boy 20 years ago and gave him up for adoption. Her story is remarkable as she was almost to have an abortion

and "leapt off the table" at the last minute, deciding she didn't want to go through with it. There was absolute silence in the room when she spoke about escaping the abortuary, and what it meant to give up her baby. She has recently reunited with her son and the video of this joyous event was shown at the convention.

After the convention many of the delegates had not returned home to their prospective cities so it was not possible to meet with them in their states. Very kindly - a conference delegate Ana Maria Blevin offered to drive me from South Carolina to Atlanta, Georgia which is an 8 hour drive and where my return flight was commencing from. I really enjoyed the opportunity to spend time with her as we talked about the movement, her family and general life in USA. She told me she and her husband have been involved in the movement for over 20 years. In Atlanta, I contacted Holly Gating, Executive Director of Right to Life South Carolina, who offered to help us in Australia at any time. It is comforting to know that colleagues over 16,000 km away will assist us in our opposition to the killing of the unborn, the frail and vulnerable.

Some of the attendees were not directly involved with National Right to Life, but are members of Super PACs. (Political Action Committee). These businesses are very active working to elect pro-life representatives into USA legislatures raising large amounts of money for this purpose. One of the people I met, Marie Guthrie with PAC National Fundraising and Communications for Restoration Super PAC. She has already sent me some of their marketing material and asked for my opinion, so I feel honoured that I can give back their hospitality in some small way.

One of the most delightful speeches at the Conference was from Kurt Kondrich. Both Kurt and his delightful 16 year old daughter, Chloe travel around the country advocating on behalf of children born with Down syndrome. Kurt - previously a police officer in Pittsburgh for 20 years - is President of Chloe's foundation, which has the motto "Embrace Don't Erase," and provides support to children with Down Syndrome and their families.

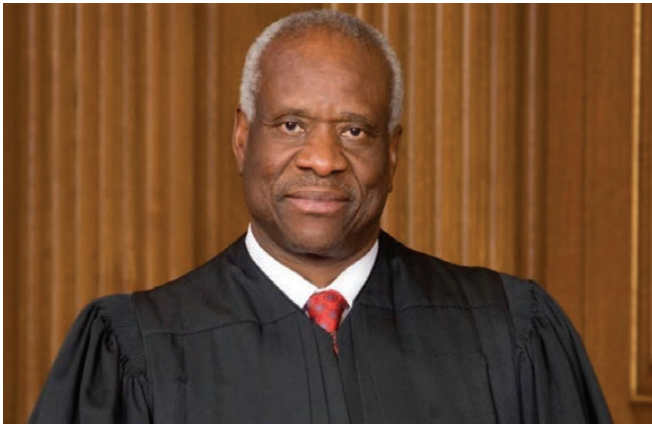
Chloe has had photos with both President Donald Trump and Vice President Pence at the White House for the 2018 March for Life.

Right to Life Australia has purchased audio recordings of the Convention. We could make these audios accessible to others, if you would like to have this opportunity please contact mary.collier@righttolife.com.au

I would like to thank Right to Life Australia for the opportunity to go to the Conference - I met and made many people who I am now able to keep in contact with. Staff at Washington USA have already provided me with assistance which has been made possible because I met at the conference.



Mary Collier and other international delegates with Carol Tobias, President National Right to Life USA.



Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas

Justice Clarence Thomas rips Planned Parenthood, abortion movement as racist

LifeSiteNews.com

WASHINGTON, D.C., May 28, 2019 (*LifeSiteNews*) – With the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision Tuesday morning to save one part of Indiana’s 2016 abortion law while letting another be struck down, Justice Clarence Thomas took the opportunity to explain how the law highlights abortion-on-demand’s deep ties to the American eugenics movement, which he said the nation’s highest court has a duty to eventually confront.

The 2016 law banned abortions sought specifically because of a preborn baby’s race, sex, ethnicity, or potential disabilities, and required abortionists to bury or cremate fetal remains rather than treating them as medical waste. On Tuesday morning, the Court issued an order reversing the Seventh Circuit’s decision to invalidate the fetal burial provision, while declining to reverse its judgment against the provision banning discriminatory abortions.

“This Court has already acknowledged that a State has a ‘legitimate interest in proper disposal of fetal remains,’” and the “Seventh Circuit clearly erred in failing to recognize that interest as a permissible basis for Indiana’s disposition law,” the order explained. Meanwhile, it “expresses no view on the merits of” whether Indiana “may prohibit the knowing provision of sex-, race-, and disability-selective abortions by abortion providers,” but declined to take up the matter until additional appeals courts take up such laws.

The order was unsigned, meaning only the positions of justices who chose to comment are known. Left-wing Justices Ruth Bader Ginsburg and Sonia Sotomayor noted they would have also ruled against Indiana on the fetal burial provision.

The conservative Clarence Thomas issued a lengthy concurring opinion explaining that such pro-life laws “promote a State’s compelling interest in preventing abortion from becoming a tool of modern-day eugenics.”

“The use of abortion to achieve eugenic goals is not merely hypothetical,” he argued, going on to detail how the “foundations for legalizing abortion in America were laid during the early 20th-century birth control movement,” which “developed alongside the American eugenics movement.”

“As a means of reducing the ‘ever increasing, unceasingly spawning class of human beings who never should have been born at all,’ [Planned Parenthood founder Margaret] Sanger argued that ‘Birth Control...is really the greatest and most truly eugenic method’ of ‘human generation,’” Thomas wrote. “In her view, birth control had been ‘accepted by the most clear thinking and far seeing of the Eugenists themselves as the most constructive and necessary of the means to racial health.’”

“Sanger herself campaigned for birth control in black communities,” Thomas detailed. “In 1930, she opened a birth-control clinic in Harlem... Then, in 1939, Sanger initiated the ‘Negro Project,’ an effort to promote birth control in poor, Southern black communities....In a report titled ‘Birth Control and the Negro,’ Sanger and her coauthors identified blacks as ‘the great problem of the South’—the group with ‘the greatest economic, health, and social problems.’”

Thomas noted that, while Sanger herself didn’t actually support abortion (she saw contraception as a way to “put an end to the horrors of abortion and infanticide”), the fact remains that her “arguments about the eugenic value of birth control in securing ‘the elimination of the unfit’...apply with even greater force to abortion, making it significantly more effective as a tool of eugenics,” because while “birth control could prevent ‘unfit’ people from reproducing, abortion can prevent them from being born in the first place.”

“Abortion advocates were sometimes candid about abortion’s eugenic possibilities,” Thomas wrote, quoting Planned Parenthood president Alan Guttmacher as writing in 1959 that the “quality of the parents must be taken into account,” including “[f]eeble-mindedness.” The question of abortion’s permissibility should be “separated from emotional, moral and religious concepts,” Guttmacher argued, and “must have as its focus normal, healthy infants born into homes peopled with parents who have healthy bodies and minds.”

“Enshrining a constitutional right to an abortion based solely on the race, sex, or disability of an unborn child, as Planned Parenthood advocates, would constitutionalize the views of the 20th-century eugenics movement,” Thomas warned, a stark contrast to the Supreme Court’s “zealous” defense of the “rights of people even potentially subjected to race, sex, and disability discrimination” in cases unrelated to abortion.

“Although the Court declines to wade into these issues today, we cannot avoid them forever,” Thomas concluded. “Having created the constitutional right to an abortion, this Court is dutybound to address its scope.”



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