

ABORTION LEGISLATION REFORM BILL 2023

Second Reading

Resumed from 17 August.

HON LORNA HARPER (East Metropolitan) [4.25 pm]: I rise today to put on the record my full support for the Abortion Legislation Reform Bill 2023. I have only a few minutes before we break for question time so I want to be very clear that I will continue my comments after question time. I am very proud to stand in support of the work that the Minister for Health, Amber-Jade Sanderson, has been doing on this bill for the last year or so and the consultation that has occurred between members of the public and members of the medical profession. I understand that this will potentially be an upsetting debate for some. Many of us will try to be polite and not be divisive because we all have different opinions and we should be respectful of the opinions we hold. Just because I think differently from someone else does not mean I think they are wrong. We just think differently and are entitled to be listened to with respect and care throughout this whole debate. I look forward to hearing what my honourable colleagues will say and do during this debate. I also look forward to discussing this further after question time. I am sure that my colleagues are ready to jump to their feet and speak and that my colleagues on the other side have taken the time to read the bill from cover to cover. It has been mentioned on many occasions that we on this side do not read bills from cover to cover, but we do, and this one in particular has been read with great caution and care to ensure that we are well informed about what we will discuss when we return from question time.

I think we have a minute to spare. When we resume, I will give my reasons for supporting this reform and why I believe others in the house should support the reform. Hon Peter Collier is laughing at me—thank you very much! I could talk underwater and could probably stand here and talk for the next hour about nothing in particular, but I do not want to start to debate this bill until I have some time to carry the debate through.

Debate interrupted, pursuant to standing orders.

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