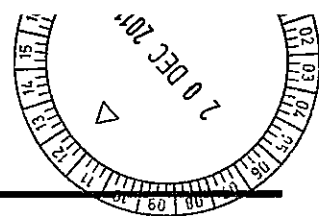




Hon Nick Goiran MLC

Member for the South Metropolitan Region



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20 December 2011

Hon Brian Ellis MLC
Chairman
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
PERTH WA 6000

Dear Brian

PETITION 127 LATE TERM ABORTION

I, along with the over five thousand petitioners, am surprised and deeply disappointed at the decision of the Committee to conclude its inquiries into the matter of the petition.

I appreciate you providing me with a copy of the Minister for Health's letter of 21 September 2011 to the Committee. This letter raises a number of issues that seem to require further inquiry.

In particular, the Minister states that further assessment is being made regarding the circumstances involved in the 14 cases of babies being born alive following termination of pregnancy. As this was one of the key matters raised in the petition it is surprising that the Committee has concluded its inquiry before receiving from the Minister the results of this further assessment.

Also the Minister reports that KEMH is "currently reviewing the hospital process to improve the information capture for termination of pregnancy greater than 20 weeks cases". It would have been helpful for the Committee to monitor the outcome of this review as it is directly pertinent to the matters addressed by the petition.

Whilst I appreciate that the abortion of infants after 20 weeks is a very serious and controversial matter, I am presently unclear why the Committee would see fit to conclude its inquiries when the Minister is seeking to make further comment. In any event, as I outlined in my submission, the controversy on abortion is one matter – the prima facie lack of medical care to Western Australians (i.e. born alive) is something quite different.

The number of signatories to the petition indicates that this is a matter of serious concern for the public of Western Australia.

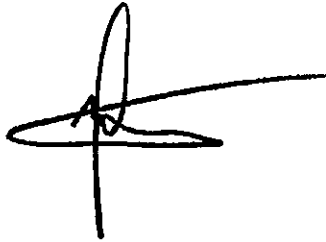
The South Metropolitan Region contains
the Legislative Assembly electorates of: Alfred Cove, Bateman, Cannington, Coekburn,
Fremantle, Jandakot, Kwinana, Riverton, Rockingham, Southern River, South Perth, Victoria Park, Warnbro and Willagee.

PUBLIC

I urge the Committee to reconsider its decision and at the very least would urge that the Committee inquire into the systemic issues surrounding the 14 cases of babies born alive (which courtesy of the Committee's work to-date has now been revealed to be 8 cases, notwithstanding the failure for Hansard to be corrected on this point).

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Nick Goiran', written over a horizontal line.

Hon Nick Goiran MLC
Member for South Metropolitan Region

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