

# **BILL SYKES MP**

## **Member for Benalla District**

*"Working for you"*



bs:kf

15 September 2008

Dr Leslie Cannold  
Spokesperson  
Pro Choice Vic  
C/- YWCA Victoria  
Reply Paid 188  
Carlton South 3053

Dear Leslie

Thankyou for your letter of 3 September and subsequent email of 5 September 2008.

I enclose for your interest my comments in relation to the Abortion Bill debated in the Legislative Assembly last week.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Sykes". The signature is written in a cursive style.

**Bill Sykes MP**  
**Member for Benalla**

Encl

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## Why I voted against the Abortion Bill

– Bill Sykes

15/9/08

I voted against the Abortion Bill when it was debated in the Legislative Assembly of the Victorian Parliament last week because I believe that in its current form there are insufficient safeguards to protect the rights of unborn viable babies.

Specifically I believe that a panel of medical (and other experts) should be involved in the decision making process after 20 weeks gestation.

Under the current Bill the mother makes the decision up until 24 weeks gestation and after that she is required to consult two doctors.

I do not believe that this provides adequate safeguards as it is substantially less onerous than the system which already applies at the Monash Medical Centre and the Royal Women's Hospital where the majority of late term abortions are performed.

I hope that amendments to address my concerns are passed when the Bill gets debated in the Legislative Council. If this occurs I will be more comfortable that the correct balance has been achieved in decriminalising abortion, allowing the mother to choose and the safeguarding of the unborn viable baby's rights.

My contribution to the debate can be accessed via [www.parliament.vic.gov.au](http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Sykes".

**Bill Sykes MP**  
**Member for Benalla**