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CRAIG INGRAM MP
MEMBER FOR GIPPSLAND EAST

Friday, 5 September 2008

Leslie Cannold
Reply Paid 188
CARLTON SOUTH VIC 3053

Dear Leslie,

Re: Abortion Reform Bill 2008

I thank you for your interest in the *Abortion Law Reform Bill 2008*, which is currently before the Victorian Parliament. This is an issue that has generated strong and thoughtful input and debate from the throughout the community.

As a Member of Parliament, I believe that I have an obligation to understand the views of my constituents, as well as having a detailed knowledge of impending legislation before making a decision, particularly on such important issues such as those contained in this Bill.

This legislation before the Parliament effectively does not change the current clinical practice. It brings the state statutes into line with the 40-year-old common law decision by Justice Menhennitt.

As part of my regular constituent surveys, I have sought to get an accurate understanding of my constituents' positions on this contentious issue. The results of those surveys state that the overwhelming view of my constituents is that they are either in favour of decriminalisation of abortion or described themselves as pro choice.

I understand that members of the community have strong views on this issue and I thank you for informing me of your position. After carefully considering the issues and taking into account the views of my constituents and the impact of the legislation before the Parliament, I have made a decision to support the Bill.

I thank you for your considered contribution to this important issue.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Ingram MLA




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