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

28 August 2008

Dear Dr Cannold,

**Re: Abortion law reform**

Thank you for your correspondence in support of abortion law reform.

On 19 August 2008, Minister for Women's Affairs, Maxine Morand introduced the Abortion Law Reform Bill into the Victorian Parliament.

We now have before us an historic opportunity to remove abortion from the *Crimes Act*. In doing this we can remove some of the stigma and secrecy surrounding the issue of abortion. We can also provide some level of legal certainty for medical practitioners who carry out abortions. And most importantly, we can ensure that all women, regardless of their background or where they live, have access to safe, legal termination services when required.

As you may be aware, the development of the Abortion Law Reform Bill has occurred over 12 months. The Brumby Labor Government initially sought independent advice from the Victorian Law Reform Commission about how to decriminalise abortion and has now developed legislation that is both consistent with current clinical practice and community standards.

I will be voting to remove abortion from the Crimes Act and again, thank you for your correspondence.

Yours Sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jaala Pulford".

**Jaala Pulford MP**  
Member for Western Victoria

