



Office of the Premier of Victoria

15/09/2008

1 Treasury Place
GPO Box 4912VV
Melbourne Victoria 3002
DX210753
Telephone: +61 3 9651 5000
Facsimile: +61 3 9651 5054
Email: premier@dpc.vic.gov.au
Internet: www.premier.vic.gov.au
LAD08/285020

Dr Leslie Cannold
Pro Choice Vic
C/- YWCA Victoria
PO Box 188
CARLTON SOUTH VIC 3053

Dear Dr Cannold

ABORTION

Thank you for your correspondence regarding abortion law reform.

On 20 August 2007, the Premier announced that the Victorian Government would seek the advice of the Victorian Law Reform Commission on options to modernise laws regulating abortion in Victoria.

On 19 August 2008, the Abortion Law Reform Bill 2008 (the Bill) was introduced into State Parliament. The Bill and the second reading speech are available at <http://www.dms.dpc.vic.gov.au/>. The second reading speech explains the principles underlying the Bill.

The proposed legislation will decriminalise abortion in Victoria in accordance with existing clinical practice and community expectations, to provide clarity and certainty to women, health professionals and the community about the circumstances in which a termination of pregnancy can be performed. The Bill will be subject to a conscience vote by Labor Members of Parliament.

The Bill reflects the advice of the Victorian Law Reform Commission (the Commission) in its *Final Report on the Law of Abortion*. The Commission submitted its report on 28 March 2008 and it has been tabled in Parliament.

In developing its advice, the Commission invited and received over 500 submissions from the public. Submissions were received from many individuals as well as a range of organisations, representing a spectrum of viewpoints. The Commission also met with a number of stakeholders and sought the advice of an expert medical panel on current clinical practice.

The Victorian Government appreciates that this is a complex issue about which there are differing views. Thank you for writing to the Premier on this important matter.

Yours sincerely

DAN O'BRIEN
Chief of Staff