



Coalition for the Defence of Human Life

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40 Days for Life
Association for Reformed Political Action
Australian Christian Lobby

Australian Christians
Australian Family Association
Christian Reformed Churches
Endeavour Forum
FamilyVoice Australia

Helpers of God's Precious Infants
Life Ministries Inc.
National Civic Council
Pregnancy Assistance
Westminster Presbyterian Church

Mr Matthew Swinbourn MLC, Chair
Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs
Parliament House
4 Harvest Terrace
West Perth WA 6005

Friday, 8 December 2017

Dear Matthew and Members of the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs

Thank you for providing me with the opportunity to present a submission pertaining to **Petition No. 032 — Induced premature births.**

The Coalition for the Defence of Human Life, supported by myself, as the President of the Coalition, has registered complaints in relation to incidences of babies born alive after surviving abortion procedures with the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administrative Investigations (Ombudsman).

The content of the "**Petition in Relation to Induced Premature Births in Western Australia**" is detailed. While I cannot cover all the components in two pages of text, I will touch on several.

1. **"The undersigned residents ... express our concern that at least 26 Western Australians have been born alive and have not been provided the same treatment and care as other babies delivered at the same gestational age solely because their live birth was the outcome of an abortion."**

The number of infants born alive after abortion procedures is based upon Questions On Notice No. 5 asked in the Legislative Council on 11 May 2017 by Hon Nick Goiran: (2) (a) "What is the total number of these cases [babies who show signs of life after abortion] between 20 May 1998 and 31 December 2016?" Answer received on 15 June 2017 from the Department of Health: "As at 19 May 2017 a total of 27 cases of abortion procedures resulting in a live birth have been reported between July 1999 and December 2016."

The assertion in the petition that these 26 (27) infants born alive after abortion did not receive medical intervention or resuscitation is based on the answer to Hon Nick Goiran's subsequent question: (2) (d) "in how many of these cases was medical intervention or resuscitation provided?" Answer: "In Department of Health routine data collections, there is no record of medical intervention or resuscitation in these cases."

The assertion in the petition that the "26 [babies] born alive ... have not been provided the same treatment and care as other babies delivered at the same gestational age solely because their birth was the outcome of an abortion" is self-evident. Rather than receiving the world-class standard of care that is consistently provided to infants born prematurely in Western Australia, these infants were left to die.

2. The undersigned residents of the petition **"are distressed to learn that the Ombudsman has stated he has no jurisdiction to investigate these child deaths ..."**

In response to a letter from Richard Egan of the Coalition for the Defence of Human Life to Mr Chris Field, Western Australian Ombudsman dated 10 February 2012, Sarah Cowie, Assistant Ombudsman Complaint Resolution, responded on 21 March 2012, "...it does not appear that you are affected in your personal

