A state newsletter of

FamilyVoice AUSTRALIA

VoxLink

Queensland

March 2017

Four thousand march for life in Queensland

Australia's worst abortion legislation motivated pro-life supporters to come together for the biggest March for Life in the state's history

An annual pro-life march through Brisbane organised by Cherish Life Queensland that usually numbers 400 swelled to 4000 on February 11 to support unborn children and protest the harmful abortion decriminalization bills introduced by Independent MP Robert Pyne.

"Thousands turned out because the two bills were terrible for everyone," said FamilyVoice Queensland Director Dr Ricky Ohl who was in attendance.

"The bills gave no effective time limits on abortion, no safeguards for women (such as requirements for independent counselling and a cooling-off period) and would allow abortion - including late term up to birth - for any reason, even gender selection.

"It promoted discrimination against disabled babies, it allows women to be coerced into abortion; it offers no support to women in domestic violence situations who are forced into abortions; it provides no support for women with unplanned pregnancies and it offers no support for women who suffer deep psychological wounds and trauma from abortion."

The peaceful demonstrators heard several rousing speeches, including Australian Marriage Forum president Dr David van Gend and state Liberal National Party MP Mark Robinson.

The crowd peacefully marched past 20 counter-protesters on George St. to Speaker's Corner, where Emma Morris spoke about how her own abortions had affected her life.

In her desire to replace her lost babies, Ms Morris said, she turned to drugs, alcohol and promiscuity.

"What you're trying to do, subconsciously, is replace that loss inside of you that nothing can replace, nothing at all," she said.

"I just want to bless you guys (those shouting support for abortion), because I was one of those people," Ms Morris said.

"Hate the sport, not the player, and this is a spiritual war. I was an abortion advocate because I'd come to accept that it was OK, but it's not because I didn't know the truth," she said.



Photos courtesy Cherish Life Queensland

The 4000-strong crowd at the February 11 March for Life in Brisbane dwarfed 20 counter-protestors, who the mainstream media preversely decided to focus on

Victory as second bill withdrawn

An LNP decision effectively torpedoed Robert Pyne's second abortion bill, so the next day he withdrew the bill.

Two days before debate on the second bill was to begin on March 1, all LNP politicans decided in a party room meeting they would use their conscience vote to oppose the bill.

Defeat of the bill was thus inevitable, due to further opposition from the Katter Party, One Nation MP Steve Dickson, Labor MP Rick Williams and several other ALP members.

After the bill was withdrawn, the Labor party asked the Queensland Law Reform Commissiont to review the bill, and have pledged to revive it if re-elected next year.

Mr Pyne's first decriminalisation bill, which was introduced in May 2016, almost stalled in Parliament but before it could be sunk, Mr Pyne introduced a second amended Bill which was a rushed patch-up to address the botched first Bill.

The bipartisan Parliamentary Committee (The Health Committee) subsequently rejected the first Bill.

An online petition (which closed 13 February) to the Queensland Parliament to stop the latest Pyne Bill was signed by 31,735 Queenslanders. In addition, hard-copy petitions are also forthcoming and therefore yet to be counted. Accordingly, well over 50,000 Queenslanders have said 'no' to the Pyne Bill.

"At the last election both Labor and the Coalition promised no change to the abortion laws in Australia. The Parliamentary Committee said 'no', the public said 'no' and post abortive suffering women said 'no'," said Dr Ohl.

"For all such encroachments upon our Christian values and liberties, our freedom of speech and religion, and the sanctity of life, we must voice our concerns to shape the society that we and our Father in Heaven desires. Christians are called to be salt and light against evil legislation such as these bills," he added.



A few of the young women at the February 11 March For Life proclaiming, 'Science shows he's human.

Meet our state director Ricky Ohl

Information systems expert Dr Ricky Ohl introduces himself to our Voxlink readers

I was born and grew up in Ayr, North Queensland. I became a Christian and was baptised in 1985, where I soon became involved in church music. In the same year, I met my wife Yvonne and two years later (1987) we were married.



Dr Ricky Ohl

In 1998 I graduated from Liberty Ministry College. I was then accepted into Griffith University to study business management, then due to my achievements I was invited to do an honours degree in commerce and then I was awarded a full scholarship to study a Doctor of Philosophy.

After 7 years in the role of Department Head and Senior Lecturer, those doors closed. This situation led Yvonne and me to reassess our purpose and calling.

What are your daily tasks as FAVA QLD director?

Having been state director for a few weeks, I have been seeking to understand the various aspects of the ministry of FamilyVoice and the current issues and opportunities in the state of Queensland.

Yvonne and I attended the recent book launch by Bill Muehlenberg. We participated in the March for Life in Brisbane against the abortion Law Reform and also attended the National Day of Prayer and Fasting at Brisbane City Hall.

Why do you think the work/role of FAVA is important?

I recognise that due to growing encroachments upon our Christian values, our freedom of speech and religion, and the sanctity of life, we must voice our concerns to shape the society that we and our Father in Heaven desires.

If we do not speak and act as a unified Christian voice, other divisive and loud voices of those dedicated to their faithless causes will shape our society and culture. In the making of Government legislation, citizen voices and voter numbers really do matter.

What does family mean to you?

Sadly, at the age of sixteen, I lost my mother due to heart complications resulting from a train colliding with the family car. Having not been a Christian in my earlier years, experiencing the loss of a parent and now having raised two children, I understand the true value of God's design for the family and the sanctity of life.

Vile vans banned in Queensland

Queensland commercial operators who refuse to remove offensive slogans from their vehicles will have their registrations cancelled from March 31.

On February 14, Queensland Parliament passed the Transport Operations (Road Use Management) (Offensive Advertising) Amendment Bill 2016 to effectively rid Queensland roads of offensive vehicles.

FamilyVoice Queensland Director Dr Ricky Ohl said, "This legislation is long overdue. For too long, parents have been unable to protect their children from offensive advertisements displayed on other vehicles, particularly by Wicked Campers. It is commendable that the Parliament has listened to the rising public concerns on this matter."

An example of the type of obscenity is displayed on one particular vehicle featuring the slogan: "In every princess there is a little sl** who wants to try it just once".

Despite this good news, the wording of the Australian Association of National Advertisers (AANA) Code of Ethics implies that political advertisements may be subject to an adverse finding. With that in mind, FamilyVoice has recommended an amendment to the bill to protect political material.

Babies left to die horrifies many

A popular FamilyVoice social media alert on babies surviving abortions and being left to die shows the Queensland public is horrified that 27 babies were killed in 2015.

A FamilyVoice Facebook update on February 23 with world-wide examples of how these babies die was re-shared 554 times by concerned citizens.

The post explained that 26 such babies in WA were left to die from 1999 to 2014. It is estimated that between 8000-10,000 babies are aborted in WA every year.

In Queensland there are approximately 10,000 to 14,000 abortions per year. In 2015, 27 of those babies were born alive and left to die after botched late term abortions. This was revealed in 2016 by Minister for Health, Cameron Dick, in response to a question on notice from Cleveland MP Mark Robinson.

It is commonly estimated that one percent of all abortions are late term, which means between 1 in 4 and 1 in 5 late term abortions in Queensland result in a baby born alive.

"The practice of allowing a baby to survive an abortion and leave it to die alone and in excruciating pain is both tragic and



unacceptable," said FamilyVoice Queensland Director Dr Ricky Ohl.

"Please tell your local MP of your desire to see a parliamentary investigation in Queensland on this issue."

A recent WA leaders debate revealed neither major party leader supported such an inquiry. WA Liberal party leader Colin Barnett rejected it on the basis that it would be "divisive".

Follow FamilyVoice on Facebook at FB.com/FamilyVoiceAustralia

DL Legal

Supporting Christians in the marketplace and before the courts

Defending prolife advocate Graham Preston

Estate planning and litigation, family law and conveyancing

0412 715 937
randall.gibbens@dllegal.com.au

PUBLISHER:

FamilyVoice Australia
GPO Box 9894, Brisbane QLD 4001
phone: 1300 365 965 fax: 08 8223 5850
email: office@fava.org.au www.fava.org.au

PUBLISHED:

March, June, September, December

EDITOR:

Rev Ashley Saunders

PRINTER:

Openbook Howden, St Marys SA 5042

EXTRACTS:

Articles or extracts from VoxLink may be used for other publications, provided that the reprint includes the following notice:
"Reprinted from VoxLink by permission of FamilyVoice Australia, www.fava.org.au."

Editorial

Conservative revolution or tipping point?

The national political landscape was upset this year after South Australian Senator Cory Bernardi's resignation from the Liberal party on February 9, the culmination of years of deep disquietude with the direction of the federal Liberal party.

Bernardi expressed his disenchantment with the Liberals back in a November 2016 blog post in which he said: "It is not and has never been the Liberal Party's job to pursue the 'regressive' Left agenda. … Political parties, if they are to survive, need to have a strong base of principled conviction that shapes and frames policy development. They don't drift along wondering where the tide of public opinion will take them. Instead, they take up the oars with intent and try to convince others to join them on the journey."

The Australian Conseratives party is not innately Christian, but many of its principles show a deep respect for Christian values.

Bernardi wrote in his 2013 book *The Conservative Revolution*: "The framework of our Western moral tradition can be found in the wisdom of the Ten Commandments and in the lessons of Christ and the life of the Apostles. Thus, secular or not, our society is based on the principles of religious faith, borne of the natural law that is engraved on our very heart, reflected in our customs and codified in our laws."

Bernardi is a strong supporter of traditional man-woman marriage. During a September 2012 debate with Labor Senator Penny Wong, he described the push for same-sex "marriage" as coming from "radicals" who were determined to destroy the social fabric of Australian society. He questioned where the militant campaign would lead, if society was prepared to redefine marriage based on the "latest criterion" that it should be allowed irrespective of gender.

Cory Bernardi has been a very vocal and unwavering opponent of the so-called "Safe Schools" gender ideology program. His outspoken stance on the issue ultimately lead to his office being invaded, trashed and defaced by an angry group of less-than-tolerant pro-LGBT students.

In *The Conservative Revolution*, Bernardi raises concerns about non-traditional families, surrogacy, abortion and euthanasia and calls on fellow conservatives to help to reverse the trends in social acceptance of changing attitudes that has helped usher us into a "morbid new world" by using sanity and reason. He wrote that it is "horrendous and unacceptable" that the abortion "death industry despatches 80,000 to 100,000 unborn children [in Australia] every year." He also believes that life begins at conception.

Being the arch enemy of the Australian Greens and what he calls their "regressive leftist agenda," he decries environmentalism campaigns and so-called renewable energy. He says the burqa is a "shroud of oppression" and should be banned. He also denies humans are the primary cause of climate change. He also wants to strike 'insult' and 'offend' out of Section 18C of the Racial Discrimination Act.

On the party website, Australian Conservatives' principles include limited government, personal responsibility, free enterprise and civil society - all hallmark facets of the centre right.

Following Bernardi's resignation, former Prime Minister Tony Abbot took the opportunity at the end of last month to launch a blistering attack on current Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull. He outlined a five-point plan to recover the Liberal government's conservative credentials through such moves as cutting immigration, ending the renewable energy target, cutting taxes, cutting spending, and scrapping the Human Rights Commission.

Like Bernardi, Abbott wants to steer the Liberal ship towards conservative values. Whatever is in their future, they both see it as their conscientious duty to put Christian-derived conservative values back on the national agenda, and that will be good for all Australians.

Letters

Abortion sorrow

Hearing that babies are being left to die after late term abortions totally sickens me to the pit of my stomach. Babies suffer pain, unbelievably so.

Many do not believe that fetus' are not viable or feel no pain. I have experienced an abortion many years ago, advised by various medical reasons and I hated it!

It *does* have an emotional impact on a woman. Especially Christian women because they know that God knows each and every one of us before we are conceived and born. People may scoff, but I truly believe that. Read Psalm 139.

Anne Reeves
(Location withheld)

God said: "Before you were formed in your Mother's womb I knew you." No excuse to let these little souls die when so many would love to adopt them and give them the chance they deserve.

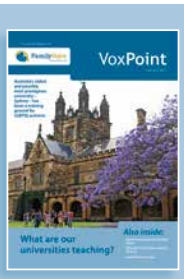
Joe Grogan
Melbourne, VIC

A national tragedy and murder whichever way you look at it. It's appalling that doctors and nurses are complicit in the destruction of these babies. One section of the profession works around the clock trying to save babies born prematurely - as early as 25 weeks - whilst other medically qualified butchers make fortunes destroying these tiny people. No government should be considering legalising the murder of the unborn at any stage of development.

(Name withheld)
Northmead, NSW

Where are you my mother, my protector, my nourishment
If I could speak I would beg that you rescue me
Hear my cry as I slowly die
Your empty arms are my broken heart
But as you turn away
Others unite to pray

Judi Walker
Wangaratta, VIC



- What are our universities teaching?
- Why did Christians vote for Trump?
- Euthanasia warning

+FavaOrgAu /familyvoiceaustralia

I would like to subscribe to *FamilyVoice* publications ($64 per year). Please find enclosed cheque or debit my credit card:

Mastercard Visa

Expiry /

Cardholder:

Signature:

Name:

Address:

P/code:

Phone:

Email:

Please return to: **FamilyVoice Australia**
GPO Box 9894, Brisbane QLD 4001

Free speech advocate wins court battle

Bernard Gaynor slams anti-discrimination board as "political thought police"

Free speech campaigner Bernard Gaynor, a Catholic father of seven from Queensland and former military man, received a favourable judgment on February 3 in his battle with the New South Wales Anti-Discrimination Board and the New South Wales Civil and Administrative Tribunal (NCAT).



Bernard Gaynor

"I've fought this case very hard for three years now and I think this case sets a huge precedent," Mr Gaynor told *VoxLink*.

Until the favourable ruling, Gaynor faced the prospect of appearing before what he called a "kangaroo court" and being ordered to issue a formal apology and pay fines up to $1.6 million to "anti-free speech" activist Garry Burns. Failure to do so could be considered contempt and opened the possibility of Gaynor's imprisonment.

One of the 32 complaints raised by Mr Burns related to his objection to Bernard Gaynor's blog about naked gay men exposing themselves to children at the Toronto Pride Parade in Canada. Another complaint arose from Gaynor's critique of remarks made by an Australian judge concerning incest in the context of the cultural embrace of homosexual behaviour. According to Gaynor, the ruling ends "the tyranny of the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board and its serial complainants" and prevents them holding persons to account for action that occurred outside NSW.

"But, I am disappointed that the arguments on political communication and religious freedom weren't considered. The judges only ruled on jurisdiction and those battles will come another day," he said.

The key takeaway, Gaynor said, is "the Anti-discrimination Board themselves are operating entirely outside the law. They are unconstitutional.

"They are nothing more than political thought police."

Gaynor is not confident that a formal inquiry will be conducted. But he has told his legal team to begin legal action against the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, which he believes will be successful.

"The Acting President of the New South Wales Anti-Discrimination Board has admitted in writing that her organization has breached its own statutory obligations under the Anti-Discrimination Act 1977 (NSW). The Board failed to provide me with information in relation to its 'investigations' into me," Gaynor said.

He also hopes the NSW Police will take appropriate action against Burns for his decision to contact Islamic organizations and offer them Gaynor's personal details, including his family's home address. The subsequent caused Gaynor family members "great stress" and as a result they were forced to seek residence elsewhere for their own safety. So far, the police have declined to take any action on the basis that Gaynor was subject to anti-discrimination complaints.

Marriage inquiry fails to rule on religious freedom

Religious freedom must apply to all citizens, Dr David Phillips told the inquiry

The February final report from the Select Committee on the Exposure Draft of the Marriage Amendment (Same-Sex Marriage) Bill did not affirm the right of conscientious objection for all citizens, and did not uphold freedom of religious practise for businesses and government workers.

The Committee members agreed that "under current human rights instruments and jurisprudence, there have been no decisions that oblige Australia to legislate for same-sex marriage. That said, there has been no suggestion that there are any legal impediments to doing so."

The Committee did not reach agreement on whether exemptions due to the religious freedoms of business owners and employees should be accommodated for in same-sex marriage legislation.

However, their final report cited the Institute for Civil Society's argument that aspirational religious duties are to be admired: "Persons with a strong religious or conscientious duty will act contrary to their self-interest, economic and physical security and pleasure to fulfil the duty."

Addressing the Committee on 25 January, FamilyVoice former National Director Dr David Phillips said, "Current provisions in the Marriage Act 47(a) affirm that a minister of religion can refuse to solemnise any marriage they want to. No discrimination and no need to try to justify their reasons. However, a civil celebrant does not have that freedom. The proposals in the draft give special treatment for homosexuals (surprise, surprise).47(a) currently doesn't mention race, people under or over a certain height, those with tattoos, Christian ministers refusing to marry Muslims or Buddhist and vice versa, etc. Redefining marriage has nothing to do with equality and everything to do with forced conformance."

Dr Phillips referred to conscientious objection in times of war as enshrined in the Defence Act, and further argued, "The bill only protects ordained Christian ministers, which is a very narrow exception. The exception, if it is to be there at all, needs to apply to every Australian citizen in every area of belief, every area of practice, every area of association and every area of family formation."

The final report ended by quoting Professor Nicholas Aroney and Dr Joel Harrison: "Religious freedom has often been treated as a second-class right, while antidiscrimination laws have been given priority… Great care needs to be taken to ensure that a focus on the first-mentioned right (freedom from discrimination) does not diminish the others(e.g. freedom of religion)."

