A state newsletter of

FamilyVoice AUSTRALIA

VoxLink

Western Australia

March 2017

At least twenty six babies left to die in WA

The WA major party leaders recently publicly rejected the need for a parliamentary inquiry into babies who survive an abortion and are left to die.

Since 2010, pro-life MPs and organisations have directed questions to the Minister of Health, the Ombudsman and the Coroner, revealing that at least 26 babies have survived abortions and were left to die between July 1999 and December 2014. This means that up to two babies survive abortions in Western Australia every year.

Calls for a parliamentary inquiry into this shocking situation have been publicly rejected by WA Liberal leader Colin Barnett and Labor leader Mark McGowan.

At a leader's debate held by Australian Christian Lobby on 23 February, Colin Barnett, who voted in favour of abortion in 1998, said such a parliamentary inquiry would be "extraordinarily divisive." However, he stated that if a child was born alive after an abortion, medical care should be administered.

Mr McGowan stated that a baby's abortion survival was a "terrible tragedy", the outcome of which was best determined by the family and medical staff.

When questioned why survival of an attempt to end its life was a tragedy, Mr McGowan stated it as "an awful situation to which there is no easy solution."

FamilyVoice WA acting State Director Darryl Budge said, "It is disappointing that our state's leaders seem unconcerned that the neglect of any human who is born alive is a crime according to the WA Criminal Code s290.

FamilyVoice is campaigning for a parliamentary inquiry to expose the true nature of the situation, which may be a catalyst for better reforms and tightening of government policy.

"The inquiry should also investigate disability discrimination, so that justification of the termination of unborn babies on the basis of their possessing a non-lethal condition such as Down Syndrome and Spina Bifida does not occur," he said.

Attending medical personnel also lack knowledge or skill to intervene and disregard pressure from the hospital or the mother's directives. An inquiry would give health staff much needed clarification.



Recent investigations reveal that 26 WA babies born after an abortion were left to die alone.

In 2013 Nick Goiran MLC found in Health Department records that a baby with the life-compatible condition of Down Syndrome was aborted at 34 weeks.

Answers to parliamentary questions have revealed that late-term abortions in WA are performed in two different ways.

Firstly, if there is expectation that the baby will survive the abortion, an injection of potassium chloride is administered into the foetal blood stream which causes the unborn baby to die from a heart attack prior to induced labour.

Secondly, if the baby is not expected to survive birth, potassium chloride is not administered and instead labour is induced through prostaglandin administered to the mother.

"Every one of these babies that was expected to die defied all odds and survived premature deliveries," said Darryl Budge.

Shocking Queensland statistics

Further to the shocking records in WA, Queensland figures are worse, a state where approximately 10,000 to 14,000 abortions are performed every 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.

Religious freedom defended

Christians in politics witnessed media bias during this year's WA election campaign.

A 28 January report in *The West Australian* made a deceptively broad claim that "Liberal frontbencher Albert Jacob is sitting on the board of a church which expels members if they develop a mental illness."

Three days later, the same journalist reported Albert Jacob's remarks that the rule required only the oversight or leadership team to step down from authority if they are incapacitated, and the rule did not apply in the congregation.

Ironically, Albert Jacob's church runs a house for the rehabilitation of drug and substance addicts. "One of the reasons why I'm on that church committee… is because I've seen the work they do in mental health," Albert Jacob said.

"They volunteer their time and money to fill points of need in the community."

On 28 January, Premier Colin Barnett vigorously defended freedom of religion and association in response to the report.

"That is their right as Christians to attend the church of their choice," said Mr Barnett.

"They are entitled to be respected for their religious belief and their privacy in that, this is not a matter for political discussion."

FamilyVoice WA acting State Director Darryl Budge is encouraged by the Premier's reaction under media pressure.

"History shows Bible-affirming Christians have consistently blessed this country, including in politics," Mr Budge said.

Mothers deserve life support solutions

News that Australia increased funding to Planned Parenthood International to facilitate abortions overseas came as a shock to many Australians

FamilyVoice is encouraging the Australian government to provide positive and compassionate solutions for women both in Australia and abroad who may feel they have no choice but to access abortion.

"Delivering an extra $9.5 million of Australia's overseas aid to abortion provider Planned Parenthood is not the right solution to the problem," said FamilyVoice National Director Ashley Saunders.

"This decision made by Foreign Minister Julie Bishop on 16 February is ill-informed."

Australia should not partner with SPRINT co-founder Planned Parenthood, which has profiteered from selling baby parts in the USA. Australia should instead fund birthing facilities and obstetrics through more trustworthy organisations, he said.

"Many mothers actually want to keep their babies but lack the support they need. We should be helping women in developing countries with access to proper birthing facilities, information and support, not abortion.

"These same things should be made available to women in Australia."

One positive compassionate action would be to introduce baby drop-off boxes around Australia, at key public buildings, he said.

In February 2016, NSW Deputy State Coroner Hugh Dillon recommended introducing baby drop-off boxes following the tragic death of a newborn baby whose remains were discovered at a Sydney beach. Baby safe boxes have been used with great success in other countries including South Korea, the Czech Republic, Germany, Canada and Japan.

Rev Saunders also called upon the government to introduce "safe haven" laws which protect mothers who abandon newborns from facing prosecution.

"Mothers shouldn't face prosecution if they feel they have no choice but to abandon their newborns. Our government policies need to provide mothers with what they actually need - love, compassion and support; not termination."



Developing countries need better birthing facilities, not abortion

Where to for the West Australian parliament?

Parties that support euthanasia include Labor, The Greens, and One Nation, while the latter opposes the 'Safe Schools' program. What legislation would a Labor government introduce into Western Australia?

Polling prior to the WA election indicated a high chance of a parliament with a Labor government and a cross bench populated by a thick mix of One Nation and Greens MPs.

Pauline Hanson's One Nation party is openly in favour of euthanasia, publicly opposed to 'Safe Schools', but does not have a public statement regarding abortion.

One Nation WA leader Colin Tincknell said that the 'Safe Schools' program "is obsessive in its continuous emphasis on lesbian, gay and bi-sexual issues. ...I don't believe children in primary school are ready for this continuous emphasis on sexuality. ... Let's stop governments bullying parents by the unrealistic agendas of some so-called experts."

In mid-February, Senator Hanson along with Senator Derryn Hinch indicated their support for the legalisation of euthanasia, which is also called assisted suicide. Hanson bases her pro-euthanasia stane on personal experience.

One Nation's official policy states: "In a humane society, when an animal is in pain or suffering we put it out of its misery....Yet we are denied this same humane act when it comes to people."

Greens MLC Robin Chapple promises to introduce a euthanasia bill after the election.

As the Greens and One Nation support euthanasia, and Mark McGowan promises to sponsor a euthanasia bill, such legislation may be passed with a change of government. It is unclear whether One Nation would allow its members a conscience vote.

WA Labor leader Mark McGowan is openly supportive of 'Safe Schools' (with a commitment to funnelling $1.4 million to the program), abortion – specifically later term abortion – and same-sex marriage. His support was reiterated when he debated Premier Colin Barnett in a leader's debate held by Australian Christian Lobby on 23 February.

McGowan mentioned that he would allow MPs a conscience vote if euthanasia were to be considered in Parliament.

On the other hand, the more conservative Premier Colin Barnett said he did not personally support euthanasia, abortion or the 'Safe Schools' program. Both major parties traditionally grant a conscience vote on euthanasia and abortion.

Barnett and McGowan agree the school chaplaincy programs are highly beneficial to students and the broader community. Both are committed to funding the School Chaplaincy program (which enables pastoral support in both public and private schools) when funding ends in December 2018.

"Enormous pressure will come upon the new parliament as it considers a raft of controversial proposals," said FamilyVoice WA acting State Director Darryl Budge.

PUBLISHER:

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PUBLISHED:

March, June, September, December

EDITOR:

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PRINTER:

Openbook Howden, St Marys SA 5042

EXTRACTS:

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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.

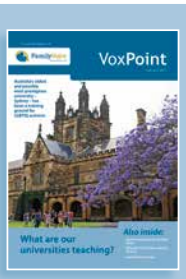
Joe Grogan
Melbourne, VIC

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



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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).

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

> **"This case sets a huge precedent"**

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.



Bernard Gaynor is relieved over thirty complaints were dismissed

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, FamilyVoice told the Senate Committee overseeing the draft Marriage Amendment Bill

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," he said.

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, association and cultural expression and practice)."