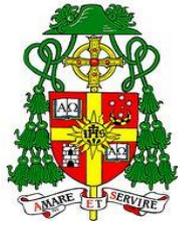


Catholic Archdiocese of Adelaide Apostolic Administrator



23rd July 2019
19/503

Dear Sisters and Brothers of the Archdiocese of Adelaide and Diocese of Port Pirie

I am writing to update you on the review of abortion law and medical practice in SA commissioned by the Attorney General, Vicki Chapman.

The South Australian Law Reform Institute (SALRI) has now completed both its public consultation and its series of roundtable consultation sessions.

The Catholic Church in SA had representation at two roundtable sessions, and I provided a written submission on behalf of the Archdiocese of Adelaide and the Diocese of Port Pirie.

Church officials also met on several occasions with interested groups and individuals, including 40 Days for Life and the Leaders of Christian Churches SA. Several articles and pastoral letters have been composed and distributed through the Archdiocese and the Diocese.

The SALRI report is due to be published in August. It would be timely, therefore, for you to encourage parishioners and prayer groups, particularly those saying the rosary, to pray for an outcome which respects the sacredness of life and ensures the protection of the unborn child is the ultimate goal of medical practice and the legal framework that supports it.

As the review goes on, and the next stage of the parliamentary debate comes closer, it would help were parishioners encouraged to contact their local Members of Parliament to express their views.

I would ask you also to add a Prayer of the Faithful to the weekly Mass.

As always, we also offer our prayers and support to women grappling with an unplanned pregnancy and those who are experiencing grief and loss.

Below are links to submissions and articles on this grave issue that have appeared in the Archdiocese and Diocese that should be of help to you in your reflections.

<http://www.adelaide.catholic.org.au/our-people/bishop-gregory-o-kelly-sj/important-messages>

Pauline Connelly, The voice of the child – July 2019
<https://thesoutherncross.org.au/opinion/2019/06/26/the-voice-of-the-child/>

Timely visit by pro-lifers – April 2019
<https://thesoutherncross.org.au/news/2019/04/10/timely-visit-by-pro-lifers/>

Julie Sharpe, Support the key to pro-life cause – April 2019

<https://thesoutherncross.org.au/features/2019/04/09/support-the-key-to-pro-life-cause/>

Bishop O'Kelly, Life is a gift that God gives forever – February 2019

<https://thesoutherncross.org.au/opinion/2019/02/27/life-is-a-gift-that-god-gives-forever/>

Warning on 'alarming' poor health outcomes for women – February 2019

<https://thesoutherncross.org.au/news/2019/02/27/warning-alarming-poor-health-outcomes-women/>

Having life to the full – The Witness April 2019

[http://www.pp.catholic.org.au/files/f/9021/Proposed%20Abortion%20Law%20\(homily\).pdf](http://www.pp.catholic.org.au/files/f/9021/Proposed%20Abortion%20Law%20(homily).pdf)

Jenny Brinkworth (editorial) – February 2019 – Caring for mums and babies – 50 years on –

<https://thesoutherncross.org.au/opinion/2019/02/26/caring-mums-babies-50-years/>

Bishop O'Kelly – February 2019 – Catholics urged to stand up for 'sacredness' of life –

<https://thesoutherncross.org.au/news/2019/02/15/catholics-urged-stand-sacredness-life/>

I am struck by the contribution made by Pauline Connelly on “The Voice of the Child”. Pauline states that she believes “that a woman has a right to decide on what happens to her body, but not when it results in the destruction of the unborn child’s body within”. So often we only hear the first part of that sentence by those supporting abortion. We carry in our prayers all those women faced with these terrible decisions about the child within them. They deserve the compassion and whatever support the wider Christian community can provide for them. Abortion is an act that no mother would really want to undertake, and it is often enormous social or family pressures that force this decision. We think also of the members of the medical profession. Their lives are devoted to healing and they are to be agents of life not death, of nurturing not of destruction. May they be faithful to their true vocation.

With every good wish and blessing, and a prayer for right judgement amongst our parliamentarians.

Yours in Christ



+ Gregory O'Kelly SJ

Apostolic Administrator, Archdiocese of Adelaide

Bishop of the Diocese of Port Pirie