

Lifting the veil on abortion

For more than 40 years our state has argued about abortion. It has fragmented political parties and society. It has divided families and relationships. Men against women. Women against women. And while these conflicts have raged around 200,000 unborn babies have been aborted in South Australia.

Nowadays abortion is applauded as a women's right. Social and economic factors outweigh any moral concerns about the unborn child's life. In fact, the unborn child is perceived to have no real value unless given by his or her mother.

Yet, ironically over the past 40 years an abundance of photographs and 4D imaging of the unborn in the womb has repeatedly confirmed their humanness.



8 week unborn baby

Photo: drsuparna <http://www.flickr.com/photos/74896762@N00/> CC-BY-SA 2.0

In fact, a basic investigation into any of the fields of medical science, such as genetics, embryology, foetology, obstetrics, etc, clearly and unequivocally reveals that the unborn child is a separate, unique, living human being.

Moves to decriminalise abortion in SA

In October 2008 Victoria was the first state to decriminalise abortion. Abortion can now legally be performed in Victoria up to birth. Or, in other words, just prior to the baby being able to take his or her first breath.

Since Victoria "decriminalised abortion" there has been a campaign to encourage other states to follow. For example, *The Advertiser* columnist Tory Shepherd has stated clearly the proposal: "It's time to decriminalise abortion, and the means of having a full debate about ethics." (*The Advertiser*, p 18, 6/7/2010)

Decriminalising abortion leads to increase in late-term abortions

Channel 7 News reported on April 17th 2010 an alarming increase in the numbers of late term abortions (20 weeks and over) performed at Melbourne's Royal Women's Hospital since abortion was decriminalised in October 2008.



22 week unborn baby

The report said prior to the legislation, there was one late term abortion every two weeks in the hospital. Now there are three late-term abortions per week – a **600% increase**.

Nearly 50% of late-term abortions in Victoria are performed on healthy unborn babies. "Of the 345 late-term abortions in 2007 - the highest number on record - 164 were performed at a Melbourne clinic on women with healthy foetuses who said they were suffering psychological or social problems." (*Herald Sun* 20/5/2010) <http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/national/healthy-babies-aborted/story-e6frf7l6-1225868918358>

The claim that late-term abortion is done only in cases of severe or lethal abnormality, or to save the mother's life, is demonstrably false.

As Queensland Dr David van Gend commented, "In many cases these are babies older than those in our hospital nurseries, who might have been born alive and adopted to loving parents, but were instead 'terminated'." (*Herald Sun* 28/1/2008)

<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/opinion-old/a-life-and-death-debate/story-e6frfif0-1111115411198>

Born alive and left to die

What is happening in Victoria?

It is appalling to discover in 2010, through the *Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity report for Victoria 2007*, even before abortion was decriminalised, 54 babies in Victoria survived late term abortions in 2007.



23 week unborn baby

Concerns are now being raised about how many more babies are being born alive after botched abortions and the lack of care given to these babies.

Is South Australia any different?

A Freedom of Information request to the South Australian Department of Health revealed it was not uncommon for aborted babies to survive an abortion. For example, for the 5 year period from 2000 to 2004 a staggering 44 babies survived the abortion. In 2001 alone, there were 14 'born alive' babies.

What happens to these babies?

Although the South Australian Health Department restricts information to the public about 'born alive' aborted babies, stories have emerged about one abortion centre that 'born alive' babies are placed on a bench in a side room (waste disposal room) to die and once dead are then discarded into the medical waste bin.

Despite the reluctance of abortion staff to talk about what occurs behind clinic doors, it was recently reported in Victoria that one trainee nurse was deeply traumatised when she was told to drop a surviving aborted baby "into a bucket of formaldehyde" (*The Age* 7/10/10).

<http://www.theage.com.au/victoria/aborted-babies-being-left-to-die-20101006-167u0.html>