

Public Hearings Program
Abortion Law Reform (Women's Right to Choose) Amendment Bill 2016, and
Inquiry into laws governing termination of pregnancy in Queensland
Opening statement of Teresa Martin
in support of the Canberra Declaration submission
11:20 to 11:50 am Monday 1 August 2016
Parliament House, Brisbane

A young woman named Rose has asked me to share her story with as many people as possible. Let me read it to you, *"At the age of 18, I fell pregnant with my second baby. Like with the first, I felt the only option I could take was an abortion. This was brought about by my thoughts that it was wrong to have a baby at such a young age, wrong to bring a baby into the world when I didn't own a home or was not married. I thought that society would look down on me and that I wouldn't be able to give my child all he needed and I would fail him as a mother anyway.*

*I made an appointment at an abortion place in Brisbane. On my way in I met some footpath counsellors outside and to tell the truth I was very scared. Having doubts about the abortion in the first place, the counsellors helped me to see what **I** wanted and to make the decision **I** wanted to make, not what anyone else wanted. I knew from my first experience at that abortion place, if I went through the door, I knew it would all be over – the abortion counsellor inside counsels you into having an abortion. They only wanted my money and didn't care about my feelings.*

*I am very thankful that I met the footpath counsellors because without them, I would not be the happy mother that I am today. When I had my first abortion, I turned into a very negative person, but after meeting the footpath counsellors and making the **right** decision, my life completely turned around and I am the most happiest being to walk the earth.*

My baby boy was born and now I have a precious baby who I would give my heart for in an instant, who brings me all the happiness in the world. The footpath counsellors are wonderful and no words can thank them enough. They still keep in contact with me and my baby and genuinely care about how we are coping."

Abortion emasculates men who can and do suffer from lost fatherhood and the trauma of being unable, or at the time, unwilling, to protect and provide for their unborn child. Elective abortion now is really suffocating grief in the future - women are hurt and harmed and forever changed by abortion. But cruelest of all, unborn babies die from abortion.