

SUBMISSION TO THE ROYAL COMMISSION INTO FAMILY VIOLENCE

In 2013, there were 14,450 abortions funded by Medicare in Victoria. There were many others outside that. This means that some forty babies had their lives terminated violently, and funded by Medicare, for every day of the year. In the same year, 73,969 babies were born. So for every five babies born and permitted to live, one was denied that chance.

Despite the best efforts of the doctor, in 2011 forty babies were born alive and left to die. This was an increase from thirty-two in 2008*, when the law on abortion was changed to permit the termination of a baby's life until the moment of birth.

In the terms of reference for the Royal Commission into Family Violence, one of the themes is: "facilitating early intervention before violence occurs." Given that the current law permits so many babies to be violently destroyed, it would seem that the first action would be to quickly recommend that the law be changed to stop this family violence.

Methods used to violently destroy so many babies are varied but all are of a horrific nature. In some cases a suction machine is used to tear the baby limb from limb. This machine is powerful enough to pull and tear the placenta and the baby into small enough parts to pass out of the woman's body and through the suction tube. Staff then have to gather all the parts to establish that all of the baby has been extracted.

After 22 weeks gestation, partial birth abortion can be used. Laminaria is used to dilate the cervix over a two day period. On the third day, the membranes are ruptured. An ultra sound is then used to locate the lower extremities of the baby. The doctor then uses a large forceps to grasp a leg and pull it down into the vagina. After the body is thus positioned, the skull is lodged at the servical opening. The doctor then makes an incision in the base of the skull of the baby, inserts a suction catheter and empties the contents of the baby's skull, including the brain of course. Once this is done, the rest of the baby is delivered. Again all the parts of the violently destroyed baby have to be accounted for so that none are left inside the mother.

Nobody can deny that this violence is both horrific and objectionable. What is worse, should the doctor not wish to be involved in the violence, he/she is required by law to refer the requester to another doctor he/she knows will perform the termination. Medical staff are not permitted to refuse to be involved under threat of dismissal. Thus their conscience is violated by State laws.

No family violence that the Royal Commission will examine could be worse than the procedures described above. It is our hope and request that Commissioners give the most serious consideration to this modern infanticide/genocide in our community.

P.J. & J.A. O'Brien,


*Consultative Council on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity, 2008, 2011.