Mr E. O’Donohue, 8/06/11

Chairman, Scrutiny of Acts and Regulations Committee,

Parliament of Victoria.

Dear Sirs,


In this brief submission, I call the Committee’s attention to s. 44(2) which says nothing at all about the most vulnerable persons in our society. I mean the unborn.

The Charter would be greatly improved if it included provisions such as the following:

the right of the unborn child to life;

the right of a baby born alive after a failed abortion to full medical attention and care aimed at preserving the life of the baby;

the right of women to be fully informed of the medical risks of abortion;

the right of freedom of conscience for doctors to make professional decisions and not be forced to refer for abortion.

This is especially so given s.9 "Every person has the right to life and has the right not to be arbitrarily deprived of life."

And further that s.6. says, (1) *Only persons have human rights. All persons have the human rights set out in Part 2.*

I contend that the unborn are persons and anyone who suggests otherwise is insulting his own origin. Therefore the unborn have rights.

The addition of such provisions would go a long way to redressing some serious discrepancies between the *Abortion Law Reform Act 2008* and the provisions of the *Charter of Human Rights*. It is simply unacceptable that medical practitioners are penalised if they exercise their rights of refusing to participate in abortions and / or to condone them in any way at all. This was an outrageous abuse of human rights by the very same government that so much noise about a human rights charter.

I have heard of instances where during an abortion a person (infant) has been born alive and has been left to die. Such barbarism should be addressed by suitable amendments to the Charter of Human Rights.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev Dr Dallas Clarnette,