

# House of Representatives

# Supplementary Order Paper

**Tuesday, 10 March 2020**

## **Abortion Legislation Bill**

### *Proposed amendments*

Dr Parmjeet Parmar, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

#### *Clause 7*

In *clause 7*, in the heading to *new section 10*, replace “**20 weeks**” (page 5, line 17) with “**12 weeks**”.

In *clause 7*, *new section 10*, replace “20 weeks” (page 5, line 19) with “12 weeks”.

In *clause 7*, in the heading to *new section 11*, replace “**20 weeks**” (page 5, line 20) with “**12 weeks**”.

In *clause 7*, *new section 11(1)*, replace “20 weeks” (page 5, line 22) with “12 weeks”.

In *clause 7*, after *new section 20F(1)* (page 12, after line 21), insert:

- (1A) A qualified health practitioner must refuse to provide fetal ultrasound screening to a person (A) where the qualified health practitioner has reason to believe that—
- (a) A is undergoing screening for the purpose of determining the sex of a fetus; and
  - (b) A will seek abortion services solely because of a preference for the fetus to be of a particular sex.

### **Explanatory note**

This Supplementary Order Paper (SOP) amends *clause 7* of the Abortion Legislation Bill.

The SOP amends *new sections 10 and 11* to reduce the time limit from 20 weeks to 12 weeks. The purpose of this change is to reduce the risk of abortion services being

sought solely because of a preference for the fetus to be of a particular sex, as sex is more difficult to identify before 12 weeks.

The SOP also inserts a new provision into *new section 20F* of the Bill to require qualified health practitioners to refuse to provide fetal ultrasound scanning where they have reason to believe that the purpose of the scan is to facilitate an abortion for the purposes of sex selection.