

Inquiry into Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill 2022

Canberra Hearing – 8 June 2023

Questions on Notice from Senator the Hon Matthew Canavan

Answers due COB 21 June 2023

Professor Joanna Howe

Question

Senator CANAVAN: Where was that study of the 241 that was reported in Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology?

Prof. Howe: My understanding is that that was from the US, from the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, that it was a US cohort. I could take that on notice to check.

Answer

The study I referred to in my evidence is detailed below.

In 2018, a study reported in the Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology reviewed 241 late-term abortions without feticide on babies between 20-24 weeks gestation and found that more than half the babies were born alive, with a median time of survival of 32 minutes and one baby surviving for over four hours (267 minutes). [1]

[1] Stephanie Springer et al, 'Fetal Survival in Second-Trimester Termination of Pregnancy without Feticide' (2018) 131(3) Obstetrics & Gynecology 575.