

## PROLIFE FACTS

Fresh debate has arisen over the issue of abortion following the suggestion made by the Abortion

Supervisory Committee in their annual report that the current legislation (The Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act of 1977) needs to be updated. There has also been some criticism that the issue of abortion is included in the Crimes Act 1961. However, it does need to be included there in order to protect NZ women from harm from unlawful abortion (backstreet abortion, without a licence, on unsafe premises, without consent, etc). Although not perfect, the current law involving certification (the CSA Act, 1977) recognises the fact that abortion is a difficult decision for any woman to make, and it is far better that there is a process in place which is meant to encourage informed consent and careful consideration rather than just a speedy and unsupportive pathway into abortion. For many women, their request for abortion is not due to wanting an abortion as such, but results from difficulties they face in having their baby due to their own personal circumstances. Therefore allowing time to consider options and providing access to support as needed should be part of the standard we continue to aim for in New Zealand.

The current law could be improved, with stronger legal requirements for informed consent, independent counselling and information about support groups and open adoption. However, the Justice Minister Amy Adams has stated that the abortion law is working "broadly as intended" and won't be updated.

**For more pro-life information, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz) or phone (09)4430995.**

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The abortion debate is on again. The Abortion Supervisory Committee wants the current legislation updated.

Why is abortion included in the Crimes Act? It's there to protect NZ women from harm from unlawful abortion (backstreet abortion, without a licence, on unsafe premises, without consent, etc).

Although not perfect, the current law recognises that abortion is a difficult decision for any woman to make. Informed consent and careful consideration is better than a fast track approach.

The current law could be improved, with stronger legal requirements for informed consent, independent counselling and information about support groups and open adoption.

However, the Justice Minister Amy Adams has stated that the abortion law is working "broadly as intended" and won't be updated.

**For more information on pro-life issues, phone Voice for Life on (09)4430995.**

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