

## PROLIFE FACTS

With the election coming up, and with some political parties in New Zealand likely to be promoting the decriminalisation of abortion, the experience in the Australian State of Victoria provides us with an opportunity to consider the possible consequences of this for NZ society. In early July Australian politician Dr Rachel Carling-Jenkins visited New Zealand and addressed a large gathering at an event hosted by Focus on the Family. She shared a cautionary tale of the reform of abortion laws in the State of Victoria. She warned it is very hard to turn back the tide once abortion is decriminalised. Now in Victoria there is abortion up to birth for any reason and viable babies born alive are left to die. There is also growing concern that newborn babies with disabilities in NICUs are being deprived of food. "Mature minors" are able to access the abortion pill without parental consent – this can even be over the phone and it can be mailed to them. Health professionals can be put under pressure to take part in the abortion process. The experience in Victoria is viewed as providing a "blueprint" for the move to decriminalise abortion in New Zealand. Dr Carly-Jenkins stressed that it is not sufficient to focus on the availability of abortion in New Zealand – it is important to work towards eliminating the reasons for abortion. **For more pro-life information, visit [www.voiceforlife.org.nz](http://www.voiceforlife.org.nz).**

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