



Footprints

THE NEWSLETTER OF
Right To Life New Zealand Inc.

Defending life from conception to natural death

July Issue Vol 17, No. 2, 2010

Circulation 2000/Target 5000

MURDER OF INNOCENTS – STATISTICS RELEASED

Abortion Statistics 2009



There were 17,550 abortions reported in New Zealand 2009. The statistics were released today by Statistics New Zealand. Right to Life New Zealand is pleased with the reduction of 390 abortions on the 17,940 abortions performed in New Zealand in 2008 which continues the downward trend over the previous two years. This is the lowest total for four years. The total is still far too high. The highest number of abortions was 18,510 recorded in 2003. This is good news for our unborn children and their mothers. We believe the decrease is due to the increasing recognition in the community that abortion not only destroys an innocent and defenceless unborn child but is also harmful to the physical and mental health of women.

Key Points

- The general abortion rate was 19.2 abortions per 1,000 women aged 15-44 years, down from 19.7 per 1,000 in 2008 and lower than the peak rate of 20.8 per 1,000 in 2003.
- Women aged 20-24 years had the highest abortion rate [36 abortions per 1,000 women aged 20-24 years].
- The median age of women having an abortion was 24 years.
- The abortions by ethnicity of women revealed that 10,113 women were European, 4,131 were Maori, 2,360 were Pacific island and 2,892 were Asian.



Women considering an abortion have a right to be offered the opportunity to view an ultrasound scan of their unborn child. It is believed that more women are now being given the opportunity to see an ultrasound scan. Right to Life believes that many women seeing their child with heart beating, complete with arms and legs moving in their womb, choose life for their child and refuse to terminate the developing child.

IN THIS ISSUE

Statistics released	1, 3
Abortions on young double in 20 years	2
Complaint to Press Council	4
The Contraceptive Pill	5
Decriminalising Abortion	7
Who should have saved Margaret Page	8
Ru 486 Petition update	9
Judicial review of the performance of the Abortion Supervisory Committee	10-11
March for Life - Christchurch	11
News in Brief	12-13
World News	14-15

continued on page 3

FOOTPRINTS

is the quarterly publication of Right to Life New Zealand Inc.

Editor: Ken Orr

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

The Officers:

President: Philip Creed

Vice Presidents: Ken Orr,
Chris O'Brien

Treasurer:

Other Committee Members:

Henry Allison, Herman Jansen,
John Collier, Andy Moore,
Mark Tasker, Chris Mangin,
Renee Powell, Abigail Wiseman

PATRONS

Emeritus Bishop John Cunneen D.D.
Father Patrick Kennedy
Rev. J. A. Haverland B.A., B.D., Th.M.
Councillor Carol Evans Q.S.O., J.P.
Dr. Norman MacLean, O&G
Mrs Nina Barry-Martin

ASK A FRIEND!

Subscription to this Newsletter is free with membership of this society

YES I would like to JOIN

- \$10 Single \$12 Family
- \$15 Group

NAME:.....

ADDRESS:.....

.....

PHONE:.....

Cheques to be made payable to and subscription may be sent to: Right to Life New Zealand Inc.

P.O. Box 668,
CHRISTCHURCH 8140

Phone: (03) 385 6111

Fax: (03) 386 0447

Email: admin@righttolife.org.nz

Web Page: www.righttolife.org.nz

*"Woe to you
if you do not
defend life"
John Paul II*

Abortions on young double in 20 years

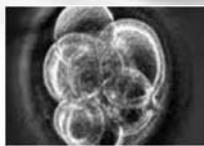
- Christchurch Press 07/07/2010



The number of children having abortions has almost doubled over the past 20 years. The latest statistics have prompted calls for parents to be informed if their daughter is considering an abortion, but health professionals say the move would be "disastrous". Last year, 79 girls aged from 11 to 14 had abortions. Of those, 68 were 14-year-olds and 13 aged 11 to 13. The latest figure is nearly twice the 43 girls under 14 who had abortions in 1991. While the figures have generally been rising, the peak was in 2005, when 105 girls aged 14 and under had an abortion.

Family First director Bob McCoskrie said it was outrageous that parents had to sign a consent form for their child to go on a school trip to the zoo, but could be left in the dark if their 11-year-old was having an abortion. Family First, Right to Life and ProLife New Zealand have been campaigning for parents to have the legal right to be informed if their daughter is considering an abortion. A law change that would have made it mandatory, backed by National MP Judith Collins, was voted down in 2004. McCoskrie said a recent Family First-commissioned poll found 80 per cent of people thought parents should be told if their daughter was pregnant and considering an abortion. He said there was support for the idea within the National Party, but no-one seemed willing to push through a law change. "Abortion is the only procedure or event in a teenager's life where for no good reason good parents are legally excluded," (Editors note). Right to life has also been campaigning for more than 30 years for not only parental knowledge but more importantly for the right of parents to protect their daughters health and wellbeing and to protect the life of their grandchild by withholding parental consent.

Artificial Creation of Embryos Deplored



The Minister of Health is considering a recommendation from the Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology [ACART] to allow the creation of embryos using donated eggs and sperm. The procedure would entail using eggs donated by a woman being fertilized with donated sperm in a IVF clinic. The embryo would then be implanted in another woman. This procedure is immoral and a violation of God's plan for procreation. It is wrong firstly because married couples only have the right to have children that are conceived in accordance with God's plan. Secondly because it denies the children the right to receive their genetic makeup from their parents. To deliberately deprive children of their biological link for the sake of the adopting parents is inconsistent with respect for the child and attacks the institution of marriage and undermines the ideal of the family as instituted by God. The procedure would also entail surplus embryos being stored for possible future use or being destroyed. Right to Life has written to the Minister of Health requesting that he rejects the recommendation from ACART.

continued from page 1

Right to Life continues to be concerned about the lawfulness of many of the abortions authorised in 2009. The statistics for 2009 reveal that 98% of abortions performed were authorised on the grounds of serious danger to the mental health of the mother.

This statistic has been constant since 1977. This conclusion on the unlawfulness of many of these abortions is supported by the judgment of Justice Miller delivered in the High Court in Wellington on 9 June 2008 in the judicial review of the Abortion Supervisory Committee, [ASC].

Justice Miller stated in his judgment that "In my opinion, the statistics and the Committee's comments over the years since the Court of Appeal made that observation, do give rise to powerful misgivings about the lawfulness of many abortions. They tend to confirm Dr Foster's view that New Zealand essentially has abortion on request. Indeed the Committee itself has stated that the law is being used more liberally than Parliament intended."

Dr Christine Forster was previously chairperson of the ASC from June 1993 to August 2001, a period of nearly eight years.

Right to Life believes that many innocent and healthy unborn children have been deprived of

their life unlawfully; this is a grave injustice and a violation of their right to life. It also permits the exploitation and abandonment of women. This is the justice issue of our era.

It is pleasing that teenagers between the age of 15-19 had fewer abortions in 2009. There were 3873 teenage abortions, a reduction of 224 on 2008.

Figures released by Statistics NZ reveal that 528 of these teenagers were having their second abortion, while 67 girls were on their third or more abortion. Since 1991,

the number of teenagers having an abortion increased by almost 70%.

There is clearly an urgent need for the introduction of chastity based education programmes into our secondary schools to replace the destructive Family Planning designed comprehensive sex education programmes, that promote the false "safe sex" message and promiscuity among our teenagers. Right to Life earnestly requests that the government promote a culture of life by promoting adoption as a loving life affirming option. This should help stop the culture of death which is destroying human lives in our country, by ceasing to require taxpayers from paying for the killing of our unborn children.

Dr Rosemary Fenwick not seeking reappointment to Abortion Supervisory Committee

The Minister of Justice has announced that Dr Rosemary Fenwick is not seeking reappointment to the Abortion Supervisory Committee. She was appointed to the Committee for a term of three years by the Governor General on the recommendation of Parliament made on the 14 June 2007. Her nomination by the previous government was highly controversial.

Right to Life welcomes this news. Our Society together with other pro-life organisations have previously made submissions to the Minister of Justice expressing concern and opposition to Dr Fenwick's appointment on the grounds that her appointment constituted a substantial conflict of interest. Dr Fenwick is a certifying consultant appointed to authorise abortions. She is also an abortionist employed at the Level J abortion facility at the Wellington Hospital. How could she be expected to supervise the abortion industry when she was a prominent member of that industry?

We now hope that the Minister will nominate a suitable person to replace Dr Fenwick who is not connected with the abortion industry and who is prepared to ensure that full regard is given to the human rights of unborn children. The new member should also be committed to uphold the statutory duty of the committee to hold certifying consultants accountable for the lawfulness of the abortions that they authorise. It is disappointing that the current Committee is prepared to accept an unlawful regime of abortion on demand.

Complaint to Press Council

Right to Life has laid a complaint with the Press Council against the Christchurch Press. The following is our complaint to the editor of the Press. We now await the decision of the Press Council.

On behalf of Right to Life New Zealand Inc, I wish to lodge a complaint against an article that was published in the Press on page A5 on 18 June 2010. The article had the title, "**Decline in abortion rates**".

Our complaint is submitted in our belief that the article breached Principle 1 of the New Zealand Press Council in respect to fairness and balance. The article which reports on the abortion statistics released by Statistics NZ on 17 June 2010 includes comment sought from Dr Pippa MacKay and Dame Margaret Sparrow. Our Society has no objection to comment being sought from these two doctors who have considerable experience in terminating the lives of unborn children. We defend their right in a democratic society to be heard.

Abortion, the killing of innocent and defenceless unborn children is rightly an extremely contentious human rights issue in our community. There can be no compromise between those who believe that the killing of unborn children is a human right and those who believe in the sanctity of all human life from conception to natural death and

who seek to promote the health and welfare of women with an unplanned pregnancy.

In our opinion the article lacked balance in that commentary on the statistics was not included from a representative of any pro-life organisation in New Zealand or from any of the many doctors who treat the unborn child as a patient who is in need of care and protection and who are passionately opposed to the killing of unborn children.

The Press, with its large circulation has considerable influence in forming attitudes in our community; in our view failure to provide balance in the article infers that there was no comment from the pro-life movement on the statistics. This is not correct., I am aware that media releases commenting on the statistics were made by four prominent pro-life organisations on the day that the statistics were released. In order that we may engage in a fully informed public debate on what is the most important human rights issue of our age, it is necessary that both sides of the debate be heard.

The Editor of the Press on the 24th of June rejected our complaint. On the 12th July a complaint was lodged against the Press with the Press council.



Spiritual Adoption

The spiritual adoption of the unborn child is a means of defending human life that is open to all of us. It does not require joining any organisation, but is a simple and effective way of using spiritual means in the face of the pervasive evil of our times. It is, in fact, an invisible golden spiritual thread that joins all pro-lifers everywhere – the love of the unborn child and his/her mother, father and family. It is a spiritual act, not requiring much time or effort, whereby a person undertakes to adopt a child – the initial short prayer can be said at home or in a church – for a child whose name is known to God alone and with whom one will be inevitably linked for all eternity.



Prayers for Spiritual Adoption

Dear Jesus, child of Mary, I love You and thank You for Your unconditional love. I plead with You to save the life of the unborn child whom I have spiritually adopted and whose life is threatened by abortion. May this child be allowed to grow in wisdom, age and strength in Your presence and in the sight of all.

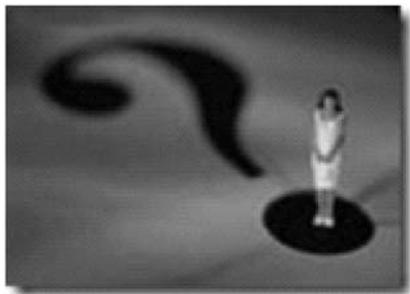
Amen.

Lord Jesus, through the intercession of Your Mother Mary, who with love gave birth to You, and of Saint Joseph, the man of trust, Your guardian and protector after birth, I offer my prayer to You for the unborn child, whom I have adopted spiritually, and who is in danger of being destroyed by abortion. I beg you, give its parents love and courage to let their child live the life that you have given to it.

Amen

The Contraceptive Pill

– The Dawn of Demonic Deception



This year is the 50 anniversary of the invention of the controversial contraceptive pill. It was developed by Professor Carl Djerassi of Vienna, Austria, in 1960. It was promoted as providing for the liberation of women and today is the most widely used form of birth control. It is used by 100 million women worldwide. It is a time for lamentation not celebration, a review of the last 50 years reveals that it has not liberated women but actually contributed to the enslavement of women. It has resulted

in great spiritual and physical damage to women and to families. Contraception and its offspring, abortion and sterilisation are part of a culture of death.

It has been the constant teaching of the Catholic Church for nearly 2000 years that contraception is a serious violation of the natural law of God and is a grave sin. It is a tragedy for mankind that many Christian Churches have in the last 50 years abandoned defence of the natural law of God and accepted contraception. In recent times the Catholic Church

has reiterated this teaching in encyclicals, which are a beacon of truth and a precious gift to humanity. In the encyclical *Casti Cannubi*, of Pius XI in 1930 and more recently in the encyclical, *Humanae Vitae*, of Paul VI in 1968. In his introduction to

his encyclical Pope Paul VI stated that, "The transmission of life is a most serious role in which married people collaborate freely and responsibly with God the Creator." He also stated, "For the natural law, too, declares the will of God and its faithful observance is necessary for men's eternal salvation. As a consequence, husband and wife, through the mutual gift of themselves, which is specific and exclusive to them alone, develop the union of two persons in which they perfect one another, co-operating with God in the generation and rearing of new lives." Paul VI guided by the Holy Spirit was prophetic, his first prophesy was that the widespread use of contraception would "lead to conjugal infidelity and the general lowering of morality" The increase in the number of divorces. Abortions, out – of wedlock pregnancies and venereal diseases are the fruit of contraception. His second prophesy was that contraception would lead to men losing "respect for women" and they

might come to consider her "as an instrument of selfish enjoyment and no longer his respected and beloved companion." The third prophesy was that contraception would place "a dangerous weapon... in the hands of those public authorities who take no heed of moral exigencies." Today we see the United Nations, the World Health Organisation, the UN

Population Fund Agency and the International Planned Parenthood Association promoting c o n t r a c e p t i o n worldwide, especially in developing nations with the objective of reducing population. China's one child family policy with forced sterilisations and abortions is based on

The contraceptive pill not only prevents ovulation, it also has a tertiary abortifacient action that destroys an embryo from implanting in the uterus of a woman. This is, in effect, an abortion that gives grave offence to God. It also is a violation of the right to life of the human embryo. Abortion is promoted as a backup for failed contraception. In 2008, 2533 women had an abortion in New Zealand who had conceived their child while using the contraceptive pill.

the availability and imposition of the contraceptive pill on the Chinese people.

It is a tragedy that the culture of life espoused by the encyclicals was met with dissent by some Bishops and priests. It is known that there are many Christians who have chosen to reject this teaching on the sanctity of marriage and the prohibition of contraception. This is an important pastoral issue facing Churches at this time. The Catholic Church blesses and encourages the lay faithful and people of good will to use natural family planning [NFP] to assist married couples through fertility awareness to plan their child bearing. NFP if used correctly is 99% effective.

The contraceptive pill not only prevents ovulation, it also has a tertiary abortifacient action that destroys an embryo from implanting in the uterus of a woman. This is, in effect, an abortion that gives grave offence to God. It also is a violation of the right to life of the human embryo. Abortion

continued on page 6

continued from page 5

is promoted as a backup for failed contraception. In 2008, 2533 women had an abortion in New Zealand who had conceived their child while using the contraceptive pill.

Contraception is a serious threat to women's health. The contraceptive pill has a failure rate of 13%. The price of "sexual freedom", is the blood of our children.

The contraceptive pill is a serious threat to women's health. In 2005 the World Health Organisation said that the contraceptive pill containing estrogen and progesterone increased the risk of breast cancer, liver and cervical cancer and classified them as class 1 carcinogens.

A Mayo Clinic study said that women who use hormonal contraceptives for a minimum of 4 years prior to their first full term pregnancy, have a 52 % higher risk of developing breast cancer.

Women who use a hormonal contraceptive for more than 5 years are 4 times more likely to develop cervical cancer.

Prior to the sexual revolution and the pill there were known to be 5 sexually transmitted diseases: today there are more than 30.

Tragically, a culture of death has been embraced by our nation. The contraceptive pill is funded by the government and promoted by the Ministry of Health and the Family Planning Association as an integral part of "reproductive health" The pill may be given to girls under the age of 16 without the knowledge or consent of parents. In 2009 there were 202,000 women in New Zealand using the contraceptive Pill. Under the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977, doctors may refuse on conscience grounds to prescribe contraception; pharmacists are also exempt from filling prescriptions. Doctors and nurses are also exempt from assisting in abortions on conscience grounds.

This is what 19th century feminists said, they knew that contraception enslaved women, they emphasized two basic Christian concepts: mutual

fidelity and mutual respect. They condemned male promiscuity. They demanded, that husbands honour their commitments to their wives, and that sons learn to honour the integrity of all women. Equal rights, they believed, could be achieved only by fidelity, mutual sacrifice and commitment, with self-control, not self-indulgence. Wives, they insisted, cannot be treated like prostitutes, available on demand. Feminists demanded "voluntary motherhood," the wife's freedom to accept or refuse intercourse... Contraceptives would deny women their rightful fertility, turning wives into little more than prostitutes, always "safe" for husbands to exploit to satisfy their passions. Widespread contraceptive use, feminists argued, would encourage promiscuity, undermine chastity, lure their husbands and sons into illicit sexual exploits, and expose more women to seduction, abuse and abandonment.

Feminists also condemned abortion, they insisted it was immoral to kill an unborn child. Susan B. Anthony, Victoria Woodhull and virtually every other noted feminist leader of the 19th century described abortion as "infanticide, child - murder." and the exploitation of women.

Contraception is contributing to the failure of most European nations to achieve a replacement birth rate which is internationally recognized as being 2.1. New Zealand has a birth rate of 1.99. We are witnessing the death of western civilization. The United Nations lists 195 countries, 72 of these countries have fertility rates below replacement level. Carl Djarassi who helped invent the contraceptive pill now says that his co-creation has led to "demographic catastrophe" He outlined the "horror scenario" that has occurred because of the population imbalance, for which his invention was partly to blame.

As God is the author of life we can look forward to the triumph of the culture of life, as the culture of death has within it the seeds of its own destruction.

"I bitterly regret that we were diverted by the fundamentalist mania of a few in 2002-2005, and although those elements have long since left us, the false impression they caused that United Future was just a bunch of religious zealots with a narrow, prescriptive moralistic agenda has lingered, to our detriment. Today, I am drawing the line – those days are well behind us, and will not be repeated."

Hon Peter Dunne in an address to the South Rotary Club, Tues 7 April 2010.



continued on page 7

DECRIMINALISING ABORTION - KILLING UNBORN CHILDREN A JUSTICE ISSUE NOT A HEALTH ISSUE



Right to Life New Zealand is totally opposed to the proposal of the Hon Steve Chadwick MP to introduce a private members Bill to decriminalize abortion in New Zealand.

- If the Bill were passed It would no longer be a crime to kill an unborn child.
- The Bill denies that the unborn child is a human being endowed with human rights.
- The proposed Bill effectively provides for abortion on demand up to birth
- The Bill is an assault on human rights, the dignity of women and an assault on the conscience of the nation.
- Parliament has a solemn duty to protect the human rights of the weak and vulnerable in society. It would be an appalling injustice for Parliament to withdraw legal protection for the right to life of unborn children the weakest and most vulnerable members of the human family.

Human life begins at conception, at the moment of conception our Creator bestows on the newly created person inalienable human rights, the foundation right being a right to life. From the moment of conception the unborn child should be accorded the respect and protection due to the human person. Thomas Jefferson, a former President of the USA stated that; "The care of human life and happiness, and not their destruction, is the first and only legitimate object of good government." *The Hon Steve Chadwick is wrong in assuming that Parliament has the right to confer human rights on the unborn or to withdraw them. Our human rights are not conferred on us by the State or by society.* It would thus be a serious violation of human rights for Parliament to withdraw protection for the human rights of unborn children.

Abortion is a crime in New Zealand and is found in the Crimes Act 1961, in the section for crimes against the person, section 182. **Killing Unborn child-** The section states that on conviction for killing an unborn child one may be imprisoned for a term not exceeding 14 years. The Crimes Act also provides that in rare and unusual circumstances an abortion may be permitted under section 187A.

- The Hon Steve Chadwick falsely claims that this is "a human rights issue, a women's health issue." There is no human right that gives women the right to kill their own child. If we legalised abortion on demand it would become unlawful for a doctor to encourage a woman seeking an abortion to choose life for her baby. The doctor would have also have a legal obligation to facilitate an abortion, this would result in further exploitation and manipulation of vulnerable women by the fathers of their children who seek to avoid responsibility for the children they have fathered.

It is appalling that at this time when there is increasing evidence of the physical, psychological and spiritual damage inflicted on women by abortion that we would contemplate the decriminalization of abortion. Right to Life is opposed to the war against our own children and will vigorously campaign against this proposed lethal attack. Right to Life has sent a three page submission to the Hon Steve Chadwicke and the Hon Phil Goff expressing our concern and opposition to the proposed Bill. The leader of the opposition has replied on the 13th July and advised that, "No proposed change has been bought before the Labour caucus for consideration, nor am I anticipating any legislative change." Our Society is encouraged by this reply. Right to Life urges all concerned citizens to write to their local MPs encouraging them to oppose this proposed Bill and to support increased legal protection for our unborn children. What future does a nation have that kills its own children? It is believed on good authority that the proposed bill does not have Parliamentary support.

"Unborn children are God's precious infants, every child is made in the image and likeness of God and is a unique and unrepeatable miracle of God's loving creation."

Who should have Saved Margaret Page?



Margaret Page

Margaret Page died on 30 March 2010 having starved herself to death. She had not taken food for sixteen days and had taken only a small amount of water. She endured a long and painful death. She was 60 years of age, and had previously suffered a cerebral haemorrhage 20 years ago and had been living for four years in the St John of God Care in Wellington. This tragic case raises many important questions for the community.

Margaret's life was important. The taking of one's life is contrary to the moral law. Our life is a gift from God. We are but stewards, not owners, of the life God has entrusted to us.

The decision to kill oneself, is not a rational decision. She had been assessed by psychiatrists as being lucid, but was she also assessed as being severely depressed and if so, why was she not treated for this condition?

The management of St John of God Care claimed that they had complied with their legal obligations. The Chief Executive Officer, Ralph La Salle of St John of God Care, stated, "We cannot force Mrs Page to eat. Otago University's Professor John Dawson, an expert in mental health law said that the Bill of Rights Act recognised a person's right to refuse treatment. "To force food on someone is actually an assault on them." Under the Bill of Rights Act she has the right and is asserting her right to refuse treatment, which includes the provision of food and water." These statements are challenged. It is morally and legally acceptable to refuse medical treatment that is burdensome or futile. Food and hydration are not medical treatment but the necessities of life. It is a great injustice and a violation of human rights to withhold food and hydration from any person on the grounds that it is medical treatment.

Dr Tricia Briscoe, chairman of the ethics committee of the New Zealand Medical Association stated that Mrs Page's actions were not the responsibility of doctors. A doctor was responsible for alleviating a patient's suffering, not to ward off death. Even though doctors could not assist in suicide, they could give painkillers that hasten death. Right to Life contends that doctors have a responsibility of care, especially for the weak and vulnerable. The first principle of medical practice is to do no harm. It is contended that the first duty of a doctor is to protect the life of his patient. Mrs Page's distraught husband said before her death his wife's life will now end in a final irony – the professionals who are caring for her are now involved in what amounts to assisted suicide.

Auckland criminal lawyer, Shane Tait, had stated that doctors could intervene to save Mrs Page's life. If they did so, a conviction for assault was unlikely to be successful. The Crimes Act, Section 41, states; everyone is justified in using reasonable force to prevent suicide. Right to Life asks why those responsible for her care did not intervene to save the life of Margaret Page?



"I once heard someone describe alcoholism like a circling shark and I would describe carrying the knowledge of my abortion in the same way. It really is like a shark that circles around then goes away. You know it will be back each time a bit closer, and because I am trailing blood, it always knows where to find me."

An anonymous wounded victim of abortion

RU 486 PETITION UPDATE

Opposing the granting of a licence to Family Planning to perform medical abortions

Right to Life is grateful for the support of Churches and parishioners for our Society's petition opposing the issuing by the ASC of abortion licences for the performance of medical abortions in the first nine weeks gestation with the murder pill RU 496 to Family Planning for its Hamilton clinic and any of its other 29 clinics. The petition was supported by 1945 citizens and was separate to the two Hamilton petitions. The petition was presented to Parliament in February by Nicky Wagner, a National list MP from Christchurch.

The two petitions to Parliament organized by a pro-life group in Hamilton and Right to Life's petition have now been dealt with by the Justice & Electoral Select Committee. The two Hamilton petitions were supported in total by more than 8000 citizens.

Chester Borrows, Chair of the Justice and Electoral Select Committee, recently wrote to the organizer of the petitions in Hamilton and to Right to Life outlining their conclusion regarding these three petitions. The Select Committee had invited the Abortion Supervisory Committee (ASC) to make a written submission on the petition.

The ASC noted:

- The members of the ASC are appointed by the Governor-General on the recommendation of the House of Representatives.
- The high level functions and powers of the ASC are set out in section 14 of the CSA Act. They include the power to receive, consider, grant and refuse applications for licences, or for the renewal of licences, authorising the performance of abortions in an institution.
- The ASC is the only body with the power to grant, renew or cancel licences.
- There are no specific objection procedures available to the public in relation to the granting by the ASC of a licence to perform abortions.
- Under section 26 a person dissatisfied by a refusal to grant, or cancellation of a licence, can make a case stated to the High Court, but only on a question of law.

The select committee advised that they were powerless to intervene in the judicial rights of the ASC to decide to whom they issued abortion licences. Right to Life has always been aware of the statutory rights of the ASC in respect to the issuing of licences. The objective of Right to Life has been achieved in raising public and Parliamentary awareness of the plans of Family Planning, and encouraging opposition.

Right to Life have publicly stated that should Family Planning be granted a licence to kill babies at its Hamilton clinic, we plan to immediately make an application to the High Court in Wellington for a judiciary review of the decision made by the ASC. It is expected that the costs involved in this legal process would be between \$15,000 and \$20,000. Right to Life has invited a number of pro-life organisations to join us should it be necessary to seek a judicial review. We are grateful for a commitment and financial support from Family First.



“If personhood is established, the case for legalized abortion collapses, for the fetus’ right to life would be guaranteed by the 14th Amendment to the United States Constitution” Roe V Wade, majority decision written by Justice Blackmun in 1973. in the United States Supreme Court.

Judicial Review of the Performance of the Abortion Supervisory Committee – Summary of Court Action



May 2005 RTL filed a mandamus in the High Court in Wellington against the ASC for its alleged failure to fulfil its statutory duties. These claims included the failure of the ASC to ensure that the human rights of unborn children received the full protection of the law, the failure to hold certifying consultants accountable for the lawfulness of the abortions they authorised and the failure to stop abortion on demand.

20 June 2005 The ASC applied for orders striking out the proceedings against the ASC. The ASC described the action as vexatious and an abuse of the Court's process.

8 September 2005 In the High Court in Wellington Mr Justice Wild heard the case between RTL and the three members of the ASC, Dr Lesley Rothwell, Dr Papaarangi Reid and Mrs Marlene Lamb (the latter had resigned from the committee in March 2005, leaving a vacancy). Counsel from the Crown Law Office, are representing the ASC. RTL named the Attorney-General as second defendant. The judge decided that some of RTL's claims should be struck out but that others, if rewritten, could proceed. The Attorney-General was named by RTL as a defendant, Justice Wild struck his name out of the action.

28 October 2005 RTL filed an amended claim in accordance with Judge Wild's decision.

29 November 2006 Associate Judge Gendall heard an appeal by the ASC to disallow affidavits from six women who had suffered mental ill health as a result of having an abortion. The other affidavit was from a consulting specialist psychiatrist Dr Julia Aranui-Faed who had evidence of psychiatric illness in women caused from having an abortion.

21 December 2006 The judge ruled the affidavits admissible. The ASC appealed requesting that the case be heard again by a full judge (not an associate judge).

28 May 2007 Mr Justice Young heard the case in closed chambers and ruled in favour of the ASC by having the affidavits of the six aggrieved women struck out as irrelevant to the case but the affidavit of Dr Aranui-Faed a clinical specialist psychiatrist was allowed. Dr Faed presented evidence in her affidavit that an abortion could cause serious psychiatric complications for women undergoing an abortion.

24 September 2007 Mr Justice Simon France heard arguments on whether affidavits from two paediatricians relating to foetal surgery and foetal diagnosis should be allowed.

3 October 2007 The judge ruled in favour of RTL.

7-9 April 2008 Mr Justice Miller in the High Court Wellington rejected RTL's claim seeking legal status for the unborn child as a human being from conception and endowed with human rights, the foundation right being an inalienable right to life. He also rejected RTL submission that abortion counselling be independent of abortion providers and the unlawfulness of appointments being made for an abortion at clinics prior to an abortion being authorised by two certifying consultants. He did however question the legality of over 98% of abortions being done on the grounds of mental health, complying with the abortion law. Justice Miller in his judgment of the 9th June stated that; "there is reason to doubt the lawfulness of many abortions authorised by certifying consultants. Indeed the Committee has stated that the law is being used more liberally interpreted than Parliament intended." He also stated; "The Committee does in fact have the power to require certifying consultants to keep records and report on cases they have considered," and the abortion law certainly asserts a state interest in protecting the unborn child and not merely an interest that women have safe and legal abortions. The law precludes abortion on request and as a matter between the woman and her own doctor."

The ASC (newly appointed in June 2007 with Professor Linda Holloway as chairperson, Dr Rosy Fenwick and Rev Patricia Allan) appealed the judge's decision on the 20th August questioning the lawfulness of the certifying consultants' decisions. RTL has cross-appealed challenging Justice Miller's Judgment in respect to his rejecting RTL's case for the legal recognition of the unborn child, as a human being and the independence of abortion counselling from abortion providers.

12-13 May 2009 In the Court of Appeal the appellate judges, Justices Hammond, Chambers and Robertson after a brief hearing declined jurisdiction to hear the appeal of the ASC and the cross appeal of RTL on the ground that the issue of declaratory orders sought by RTL were required to be dealt with first by the High Court.

continued from page 10

20 July 2009 In the High Court Justice Miller heard arguments from the counsel for RTL that declaratory orders were necessary. The ASC presented arguments against the issuing of orders.

3 August 2009 Justice Miller issued his judgment declining to issue declaratory orders. He stated that orders were unnecessary as the ASC should now be fully aware of its statutory duties. "There is no reason to suppose that the Committee will refuse to act now that its functions have been clarified. It remains the case that the Committee can be expected to administer the law as Parliament intended." "Further non-compliance has been material. I found that the Committee has failed over many years to exercise some of its statutory powers at all... it is not possible to say how many unlawful abortions have been performed."

20 August 2009 The ASC appealed again to the Court of Appeal and RTL followed with a cross appeal on the issues of the legal status of unborn children and the independence of abortion counselling from abortion providers.

5-6 October 2010 A hearing has been set down for the Court of Appeal to hear arguments on the appeals of the ASC and RTL. The hearing was originally set down for 4-5 May 2010, however due to the unavailability of Crown counsel the hearing was set down for 23-24 August 2010. It was then changed again due to there not being three judges free to preside at the hearing.

Right to Life is pleased with the achievements obtained to date in seeking the full protection of the law for the right to life of unborn children and for the health and wellbeing of women. Our Society is confident of a successful outcome at the conclusion of these important legal proceedings.

MARCH FOR LIFE – CHRISTCHURCH

Over 300 people marched in Christchurch today to highlight the value of all human life, and to speak up about New Zealand's unacceptably high abortion rate. The march, started in Cathedral Square, following short speeches from a number of Christchurch high school students on the need for the young people of New Zealand to value life and speak up against abortion. Rallying underneath the Bridge of Remembrance, president of ProLife Canterbury, Lydia Moore, spoke of the Family Planning Association's application for a license to commit abortions, killing pre-born babies up to 9 weeks. "The Bridge of Remembrance serves as a memorial for us so that we never forget the sacrifice made by New Zealand men and women who fought for our freedom," said the march spokesperson. "They sacrificed their lives for us to protect the innocent - why are we turning around and killing New Zealand's most vulnerable, pre-born citizens?" "It was great to see so many young people at



Local youth hold the March for Life banner.

abuse in New Zealand every day. The Purpose of the march was to firstly to stand up for the value of life in New Zealand, and secondly to protest against abortion in New Zealand by calling on the Abortion Supervisory Committee to deny the FPA an abortion license.

New Zealand's inaugural March for Life," she said. "Young Kiwis are standing up against the complacency of our society which has created a culture of death, allowing abortion to kill so many of their own generation." In New Zealand approximately 18,000 pre-born babies are killed every year from abortion. This works out at approximately 50 babies dying from this form of child

The march was endorsed by the Catholic bishop of Christchurch, Bishop Barry Jones. Seven Catholic priests participated in the march. The march was supported by Family First, Right to Life, Focus on the Family, Family Life International, ProLife NZ and Stop Family Planning.

"In an abortion two things die, an unborn child and the mother's conscience."

Mother Theresa of Calcuta.

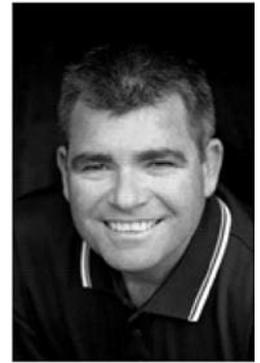
News in Brief



Family First NZ says that there is widespread support for the abstinence message in sex education, stronger standards being enforced during family television viewing times, and

parents being notified when their daughter is seeking a medical procedure such as an abortion.

These are the key findings of research commissioned by Family First NZ. The Curia Market Research poll surveyed 1,000 people, and also found support for the Government giving a subsidy to parents who choose not to send their children to a child-care centre but foregoes income by staying at home to look after the children themselves.



Bob McCoskrie
National Director

KEY FINDINGS

Extensive support for parental notification when daughter pregnant and considering abortion (80%)

3 out of 4 parents of young children want abstinence message in sex education (69% overall)

Two thirds of New Zealanders are concerned about broadcasting standards for family viewing
Majority support for stay-home parents receiving government subsidies

Istar Ltd



Right to Life in April laid a complaint with the Charities Commission. The complaint was against the decision of the Commission to grant charity status to Istar Ltd. It is interesting that Ishtar (note the dropped h) is a goddess of fertility, love, war and sex. In the Babylonian pantheon, she “was the divine personification of the planet Venus”. Ishtar was above all associated with sexuality: her cult involved sacred prostitution.

This company is the sole New Zealand importer of the lethal abortion pill RU486. Our Society contended that facilitating the killing of innocent and defenceless unborn children was not a charitable activity. The Commission investigated our complaint and upheld the charity status of Istar. The Commission stated that abortion was

legal in New Zealand and that the charitable service of Istar Ltd was to provide licensed abortion providers with the abortion pill to enable them to provide medical abortion services. The owners and directors of Istar Ltd are Dame Margaret Sparrow

Dr Dianne Edwards, Dr Carol Shand, Dr Peter Stone, Dr John Tait and Dr Simon Snook. The latter specialises in vasectomies and sexual health. The first three doctors named are well known abortionists. The Commission noted that the Auckland Medical Aid Centre abortion clinic in Auckland also has charity status. It is mentioned that Right to Life was refused charity status by the Commission on the grounds that our activities are not charitable.



“Unborn children are God’s precious infants, every child is made in the image and likeness of God and is a unique and unrepeatable miracle of God’s loving creation.”

News in Brief *(continued)*

Southern Cross Hospitals



It had come to the attention of Right to Life through information obtained under the Official Information Act that consideration was being given by Southern Cross to make application for abortion licences at its hospitals. Our Society wrote to Southern Cross in April expressing concern and opposition to such a move. We stated that Southern Cross hospitals promote a culture of life by the protection of life and the promotion of the health of its patients. It would be a great tragedy for the community, our unborn and their mothers if Southern Cross chose to embrace the killing of unborn children in the mistaken belief that it was providing a service.

In the event of this happening we would be obliged to encourage our members and supporters to boycott Southern Cross

The chief executive officer of Southern Cross Hospitals, Terry Moore advised Right to Life in May 2010 that his Society had no plans at present to seek abortion licences for its hospitals. The Society currently holds an abortion licence for its Brightside Hospital. In view of the very small numbers of women seeking an abortion there the Society was considering relinquishing this licence. Mr Moore also advised that Southern Cross Health Insurance had no plans to include abortion cover.

Holland Sees Euthanasia Cases Rise 13 Percent, Thousands of People Killed – Amsterdam, Netherlands (LifeNews.com)

The number of euthanasia cases in the Netherlands has increased and, last year, 2,636 Dutch people were killed by doctors. Some 80 percent of the cases involved physicians administering lethal drugs and patients returning home to die. An estimate of 2,500 deaths was found and pro-life advocates said they were likely too low. The number of euthanasia cases in Holland rose 10 percent from 2007-2008 and numbered 2,331 at that time. That was an increase on the 1,815 reported cases in 2003, the year after the Netherlands became the first nation in the world to legalize the practice. Critics say the rising numbers are underreported and that more people have their lives taken by their physicians - in some cases when they can't legally consent to killing themselves. Jan Suyver, chairman of the government's euthanasia monitoring commission, told the London Telegraph that the increase in numbers likely came because the "taboo" was removed on euthanasia over the years since its legalization. But Phyllis Bowman, the executive officer of Right to Life, responded: "I am sure that the increase in numbers of people opting for euthanasia is largely a result of inadequate pain control." It is also important to note that neither reports the number of intentional deaths by dehydration that occur each year. A study that was published in the New England Journal of Medicine indicated that 7.1% of all deaths in the Netherlands in 2005 were related to terminal sedation, which is often done to cause the death of the person and not simply to relieve intractable pain. Since then several reports have indicated that at least 10% of all deaths in the Netherlands are related to terminal sedation.

"A nation that kills its own children is a nation without a future."

Pope John Paul II to the Polish nation, 1996.

World News

Fr Paul Marx – Pro-life Missionary Deceased



Like so many other pro-life friends worldwide, the executive of Right to Life New Zealand were deeply saddened by the news of the death of our dear friend, the pioneering and unparalleled pro-life missionary Father Paul Marx, O.S.B., PhD. He was a giant who started the pro-life movement in so many countries and whose efforts saved millions of babies. He was the founder of Human Life International the Population Research Institute and New Zealand's own Family Life Institute.

In 40 years of pro-life labours, Fr. Marx journeyed to more than 100 countries as a "pro-life missionary;" gave thousands of talks, sermons and interviews; wrote half a dozen books; wrote hundreds of articles and numerous pamphlets; distributed countless books, pamphlets, tapes, videos, abortion photos and replicas of unborn babies; held international conferences of up to 2,000 people at a time in the United States, Canada and Mexico; personally brought thousands of people into the pro-life movement; went to jail several times for protesting abortions; and on several occasions strolled into abortion mills and counselled abortion-bound mothers not to kill their babies (he told the outraged abortionists he was the chaplain of the place!).

May Father Marx rest in peace, and may the right to life movement always cherish his memory and follow his example, on through to victory no matter what the odds.

Born in 1920, Father Marx was ordained a Catholic priest in 1947. He was living in retirement at his Benedictine abbey, St. John's, in Collegeville, Minnesota. After a period of declining health, Fr. Paul Marx, O.S.B., went to be with Our Lord on March 20, 2010, at 8:10 am [US Central Time]. At the moment of his death, he raised his arms Heavenward and said, "Take me home." As a colleague reflected, the words of the late pro-life hero Congressman Henry Hyde, a friend of Fr. Marx, come to mind at this sad time:

*When the time comes, as it surely will, when we face that awesome moment, the final judgment, I've often thought, as Fulton Sheen wrote, that it is a terrible moment of loneliness. You have no advocates, you are there alone standing before God, and a terror will rip through your soul like nothing you can imagine. But I really think that **those in the pro-life movement will not be alone. I think there will be a chorus of voices that have never been heard in this world but are heard beautifully and clearly in the next world, and they will plead for everyone who as been in this movement. They will say to God, 'Spare him because he loved us,' and God will look at you and say not, "Did you succeed?" but "Did you try?"***

Abortion Doctor Killer- Sentenced to 50 Years Imprisonment



Scott Roeder, 52 was sentenced was sentenced to 50 years imprisonment with no parole on the 30 March in the court at Wichita, Kansas in the United States for the murder of late term abortionist Dr George Tiller. Roder said that, "It is no secret that George Tiller killed unborn babies for a living under the pretence medicine and choice." Noting that abortions were illegal three decades ago, Roeder said : "It was murder then and it was murder now. We do not change reality by changing the law." Roder's defence was that he killed Tiller to stop Tiller from killing unborn children. His defence was dismissed by the judge. The pro-life movement has condemned the killing of Tiller as a violation of his right to life. The violence of abortion will not be halted by using violence against those involved in the killing of unborn children.

United States – Abortion Clinics Close

Abortion clinics are closing at an unprecedented rate, in 1991, there were nearly 2,200 abortion clinics, but today there are 712. Since 1991 over two-thirds of all abortion clinics in the United States have permanently closed. That trend reflects the shifting attitude of Americans toward the Pro-Life position. On the eve of the 37th anniversary of the Supreme Court's decision in Roe V Wade, which struck down all the States legislation to protect the lives of unborn children and legalised abortion on demand throughout the United States, a new survey was released revealing that 56 per cent of all Americans and 58 per cent of those 18-29 years old say abortion is "morally wrong" The foundations of Roe have crumbled and the abortion industry is not far behind. A contributing factor in the closing of abortion clinics is the prayerful vigils held outside clinics praying for their closure.

World News *continued*

Planned Parenthood Does More Than 1.1 Million Abortions Annually Worldwide

New York, NY (LifeNews.com) -- International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) recently released its annual performance report for 2008-2009. Despite an economic downturn and a slight decrease in annual income, the abortion industry giant boasts of increased activity across all of its lines of work -- including condom distribution, advocacy and abortion services.

IPPF's overall income for 2008 was US\$119.7 million, down from over \$120 million the previous year. The New Zealand Family Planning Association is a loyal affiliate of IPPF and supports its worldwide promotion of contraception, sterilization and abortion.

While IPPF's total financial intake dipped, its abortion business boomed. The organization provided almost 428,000 "abortion services" to young people alone, with a staggering 1,134,549 total number of such services – almost double the number from 2007 – across the globe.

Despite an increase in abortion services, IPPF remains unsatisfied with the figure, arguing that "in comparison to other types of services provided by IPPF Member Associations, these figures remain low and indicate that much needs to be done in terms of future investment in this area if IPPF is to meet its objectives of providing women with the choice and right to safe abortion when faced with an unwanted pregnancy."

In the report, IPPF boasts of promoting its abortion agenda among its member associations in traditionally pro-life countries.

Nebraska Enacts First-Ever Abortion Ban Based on Fetal Pain

OMAHA, Nebraska, April 13, 2010 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Nebraska Gov. Dave Heineman signed into law today another landmark bill banning abortion after 20 weeks gestation, on the basis that an unborn child feels pain at that age. Just hours before, the Nebraska legislature had passed the legislation, the first of its kind in the United States. Pro-life advocates believe it could pose a direct and historic challenge to Roe v. Wade, the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court case that deprived the states the power to regulate or restrict abortion.

The "Pain Capable Unborn Child Protection Act", authored by Speaker Mike Flood, was approved in the Unicameral on the third and final reading of the bill, by an overwhelming pro-life majority of 44 in favor and 5 against. The governor wasted no time in signing the measure into law.

The law portends a fresh challenge and new look at the U.S. Supreme Court's 1973 Roe v. Wade and Doe v. Bolton cases, which led to the virtual legalization of abortion on demand. The Nebraska law applies a different standard – that of the unborn child's ability to feel pain - for restricting abortion, while the high court used the standard of what they then considered to be point of fetal viability.

"LB 1103 creates a case of first impression for the courts to acknowledge the capability to feel pain as a compelling state interest to protect those unborn babies from an excruciatingly painful death."

All the wars ever fought

All the wars ever fought,

All the holocausts ever perpetrated,

All the plagues that ever raged,

All the bombs that ever dropped,

*All the famines that ever laid waste to the land, put together,
have not killed the number of human beings wiped out by abortion.*

Pregnant Need to talk?

PH (03) 338 3057
OR 0800 773 462

Call us - we care!

24 HOURS A DAY
7 DAYS A WEEK

We can help you consider your options. A free and confidential service, by telephone or face-to-face. Advocacy and support with adoption.

PCS Pregnancy Counselling
Services Incorporated

www.pregnancy-cs.org.nz

Text 2TXTPCS 021-2898-727



When a woman loses her unborn child through abortion she suffers a deep wound... The effects of abortion can alter a woman's view of herself, her experience of womanhood, maternity, her present and future relationships, her world view.

P.A.T.H.S. offers trained support for those hurting from a recent or past abortion.

Ph: (03) 379 7710

For more information or to send donations please write to:

Carolina Gnad
P.A.T.H.S. Co-ordinator
PO Box 1557, ChCh

Billings Method of Natural Fertility Regulation

99% effective if understood
and followed according to the
science of the method

Successful in achieving
pregnancy
and avoiding IVF

Professional tuition available

Phone 351-3227

PRAYER changes hearts

WEEKDAY VIGILS

Mon Wed Fri 6.30 - 7.30am

Friday 4.30 - 5.00pm

Christmas Day 6.30 - 7.30am

Outside Lyndhurst

ALL WELCOME

Organised by independent prayer group

ROSARY PRAYED

FAMILY LIFE INTERNATIONAL

Promoting the
sanctity of life
and the dignity of the
family through
worldwide research,
education and
service

Learn how to help rebuild

the Culture of Life

Ph 09-279-2413

(Auckland) or

Ph 03-351-3225

(Christchurch)

email: life@fli.org.nz

MISSIONARIES FOR LIFE

Caring women and men are required for peaceful approach to women entering Lyndhurst. To pray, hand out information to women considering abortion or train as sidewalk counsellors. This ministry does save mothers and babies from abortion.

**If you could spare one hour a week or less frequently please contact:
Maria or Sandra 351-3225**

Right to Life

Join us at LYNDHURST

for an ecumenical

PRAYER VIGIL

Sunday 3rd October 2pm

PRAYER VIGIL

Join us at
St Mary's Church

Manchester Street

Tuesday 17th August at 1pm

CELEBRATE THE GIFT OF LIFE

and make reparation for abortion,
pray for the conversion of hearts
and the spiritual healing of women
through prayer

ORGANISED BY FAMILY LIFE INTERNATIONAL



Permit Post

NEW ZEALAND

Permit No. 1346

If unclaimed within 14 days please return to Right to Life, New Zealand Inc., P.O. Box 668, Christchurch 8140