



CROSS PARTY WOMEN ACT AGAIN TO DEFEND WOMEN'S REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE

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Reproductive Choice Australia welcomes the efforts of female MPs from the Democrats, Liberal Party, Greens, and Labor Party to protect women's right to make an informed choice. RCA is a national coalition of over 20 organisations including Children by Choice, the Public Health Association of Australia, the Australian Women's Health Network, the Women's Electoral Lobby, and all state-based pro-choice groups.

Senators Natasha Stott Despoja, Judith Troeth, Carol Brown and Kerry Nettle will introduce the *Pregnancy Counselling (Truth in Advertising) Bill 2006* tomorrow. The Bill is based on a Private Members bill introduced last year by Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, which extends the widely accepted principle of transparency in advertising to pregnancy counselling services.

"Sadly, anti-abortion services advertise in ways designed to mislead and confuse women. These services provide false information to women about the risks of abortion, and will not refer women to a termination service, even if they request it. The Bill draws a line in the sand when it comes to false advertising. It prohibits agencies that will not refer for abortion from disguising this fact in the ads they put in GPs surgeries, and in the Yellow and White Pages", said Dr Leslie Cannold, spokeswoman for RCA.

"Recent research reveals that 81% of women, whether they are pro or anti-choice, believe pregnancy counselors should refer for all three options".

"We congratulate the cross-party group of female Senators who have refused to turn a blind eye to the confusion and fear such false advertising causes women, and urge the Senate to show their support for the truth," she said.

For further information or to arrange to speak with Dr Cannold contact 0417114859