

Nicholas Tonti-Filippini Outed Published in The Age on 27.4.06

Abortion and truth in advertising

NICHOLAS Tonti-Filippini, while purporting to respond to my views on pregnancy counselling (Opinion, 26/4), never addresses my central claim that the problem with both the Government's new pregnancy support measures and existing pregnancy crisis centres is that they are not required by law to disclose their pro-life views and their unwillingness to refer women to an abortion-service provider, even if she requests it. He never explains, in other words, why neither the Government and pro-life supporters believe pregnant women are entitled to truth in advertising and informed consent.

It has become usual for those on the extreme end of the anti-choice movement to paint themselves as moderates, a point in relation to Mr Tonti-Filippini that also goes to truth in advertising. Mr Tonti-Filippini is not just any consultant ethicist, but one to Tony Abbott, the federal Minister for Health. He is also a lecturer at the John Paul II Institute in Melbourne and a fellow at the Southern Cross Bioethics Institute which, as an initiative of Southern Cross Care, is funded by the Knights of the Southern Cross, a society of Catholic men committed to promoting the Christian way of life throughout Australia.

Dr Leslie Cannold, spokeswoman, Reproductive Choice Australia