

The Committee Secretary,  
Community affairs Committee,  
Department of the Senate,  
Parliament House,  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee,

Submission on Transparent Advertising & Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005

1. Endeavour Forum Inc. is an NGO which has special consultative status with the Economic & Social Council (ECOSOC) of the United Nations

1. Bill 2005 is unconstitutional because the Federal Government does not have the power to control advertising. Decisions about Advertising are a matter for the States.

2. Pregnancy Counselling Services cannot be required to "refer" for abortion any more than they can refer for knee reconstructions or hip replacements. Referrals for surgical procedures are made by doctors. Counselling services can only suggest that their clients see a doctor.

3. Pregnancy Counselling Services have a duty to inform of the studies (recent ones from New Zealand and Norway) showing that there is a greater incidence of mental health problems following abortions than if the pregnancy goes to term: "The New Zealand study, published by the Journal of Child Psychology and Psychiatry, found that mental health problems, including depression, anxiety, substance abuse and suicidal thoughts, were more likely to occur among women who had an abortion than women who had never been pregnant or pregnant women who did not terminate the pregnancy. The study concluded, "Abortion in young women may be associated with increased risks of mental health problems."

4. Pregnancy Counselling Services have a duty to inform of the studies linking abortion to premature births in subsequent pregnancies. Premature births are the greatest cause of disabilities such as cerebral palsy in infants. (see NSW Supreme Court case of Kristy Bruce v Alan Kaye).

5. Pregnancy Counselling Services have a duty to inform of the many studies showing early childbirth, breastfeeding and having many children reduces breast cancer risk, and that an unplanned pregnancy will not kill a woman but that breast cancer is the greatest cause of mortality in pre-menopausal women (other than road accidents) and the third major cause of death in post menopausal women.

6. Pro-life Pregnancy Counselling Services are currently the only service providers who help post-abortion women suffering from mental and emotional trauma. Abortion providers are in denial about post-abortion syndrome.

Babette Francis  
National & Overseas Co-ordinator,  
Endeavour Forum Inc.