

7th June, 2006

To whom it may concern at the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee,

Re: Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005/  
Senate investigation of Pregnancy Counselling

It is my experience that Pregnancy Counselling Australia misrepresents itself to the public as an unbiased counselling agency, when in fact it is biased against Abortion and does not give information for women to access Abortion even if they want to. I feel that this is wrong, misinforms women, and this could result in harming clients who use the service. If I had known what service it really is, I would not have used there service in any way with a person I know. I am glad to hear that there is good work being done to rectify this with Senator Stott Despoja introduction of the Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005. I am pleased to hear that there is a Senate investigation of this important issue and I hope that this will save future women and families from possible harm they may have been subject to from misinformation/misrepresentation, especially at what may be crucial timing. I think it is in the public interest to be informed more accurately in the future. Pregnancy Counselling Australia seems biased (in their case, against abortion), rather than 'neutral' as it purports to be. If they are biased by their own personal beliefs, as I think that they are, this is unethical counselling practice and Pregnancy Counselling Australia seems to be a misleading name in itself, as it seems to be more of a consulting service. The same goes for any similarly run pregnancy counselling operation by some other name that is also biased. By contrast, I have found Children by Choice to be an excellent pregnancy counselling organisation, without bias and with great professional care.

Thankyou and Kind Regards,  
Concerned citizen,  
Shakina Burdo