

## **Submission to the Pregnancy Counselling Services – Truth in Advertising Bill**

When discovered I had an unwanted pregnancy around five years ago, I sought help from a number of telephone counselling agencies. I was made to feel even more confused when confronted by counsellors who had their own moral and ethical stance on my pregnancy. They also gave unfounded and false information about the risks of abortion. It was when I finally rang a service whose counsellors offered non-judgemental and sound advice and on all choices, including abortion, that I felt I had the knowledge and power to make an informed decision. I am not against ‘pro-life’ agencies offering counselling services, but the fact that they do not offer advice on abortion or even condemn abortion to women who are seeking advice on this procedure should be clearly stated in advertisements. Only services offering non-judgemental and unbiased counselling should be listed in the front pages of the telephone book. For it is here that many women first turn to when they learn they have an unwanted pregnancy.

Ms Robyn Preston