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**Janet Mackenzie**

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13 June 2006

To the Senate Community Affairs Committee

Inquiry into the Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005

I am extremely concerned at the Howard government's funding of the counselling service Pregnancy Help Australia. According to a statement by Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, this organisation's constitution prevents it from providing full information on the three courses of action available to a woman who finds herself unexpectedly pregnant.

A woman in this situation is vulnerable and needs to be able to consider all the options open to her with an equal mind. A woman who contacts a government-funded organisation for advice is entitled to receive unbiased advice.

The bill is essential to ensure that women's choices are not constrained by pregnancy counselling that has a pre-determined agenda. This is a secular society, and persons who have religious beliefs about abortion should not be funded by the government to impose their views on those who do not share them.

I urge you to support the bill.

Yours sincerely

Janet Mackenzie