

June 20, 2006

A submission regarding the *Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005*

To Whom It May Concern:

The *Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005* has a number of problems which I have outlined below.

1. What other business or service advertises what they *don't* provide? For example, a business that specializes in carpentry fixings does not mention in their ad that they do not sell certain fixings. Is this then misleading advertising? Of course not! If a potential customer wants to know if they sell particular fixings, then they'll ring and ask. The same is true for pregnancy counseling services.
2. If a woman wants an abortion, she can just walk down the street to the nearest abortion clinic and get one. If she wants counseling or advice, it really doesn't matter if the counseling service provides referrals for abortions. After all, if in the end, she does decide that she does want an abortion, she can still go and have one.
3. How does this Bill promote public health, as stated in Section 4(c), "Objects"? Clearly, the real object of this Bill is to stop women being "talked out of" having an abortion. This Bill only encourages more abortions. With at least 100,000 abortions every year, there are already far too many abortions in Australia.
4. Allowing only counseling services that provide referrals to advertise in the health and help 24 hour call pages in telephone directories will *not* "minimise the difficulties associated with obtaining advice to deal with unplanned pregnancy", as stated in Section 4(d), "Objects". It is more transparent to have all pregnancy counseling services advertising in the same place in a telephone directory and it ensures that clients have "full choice" (Section 4(b), "Objects").
5. Who will determine what misleading advertising is? Which Parliament Minister is to police this and who is to table the report each year to Parliament? This is not addressed at all.

This Bill is very discriminatory and therefore a waste of Senators time.

Please recommend in your report that this Bill is not worth debating, let alone passing.

Yours sincerely,

Katie Lindorff