

**SUBMISSION TO:**

**AUSTRALIAN SENATE COMMUNITY AFFAIRS LEGISLATION  
COMMITTEE**

**Inquiry into**

**Therapeutic Goods Amendment**

**(repeal of Ministerial Responsibility for Approval of RU486)**

**Bill 2005**

**SUBMISSION PREPARED BY:**

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**For and on Behalf of Brethren Christian Fellowship**

**16 January 2006**

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Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

16 January 2006

**Submission re: inquiry into Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial Responsibility for Approval of RU486) Bill 2005**

Dear Sir,

This drug has been the subject of trials in the United States under the name of "Mifeprex" and to my knowledge, it is the first drug ever designed to abort an established pregnancy. I note it has been stated in the Federal Senate that '**RU486 is a drug that kills an unborn life**'.

Further, it has been established that **the use of RU486 has been responsible for a number of maternal deaths**, and the United States Food and Drug Administration has convened a top level meeting early this year, to investigate these deaths.

Clearly, the use of RU486 involves an extremely high risk factor. Women **seeking** an abortion are always in a highly emotive situation, and for a doctor to be able to make such a drug available, there would always be the distinct possibility that a woman in that condition, would fail to act rationally in the follow up, and hence the situation experienced in America would repeat itself in Australia.

The real danger is that where the abortion is not successful and immediate surgery should be carried out, many women could fail to avail themselves of the expert gynaecological attention needed.

The ready availability of a drug such as RU486, makes it too easy for a woman to reject a pregnancy without the necessary counsel and supervision required in such a critical life situation. **Australia does NOT need this drug.**

The ready availability of an abortive pill would be a very serious step in the downgrading of the sanctity of human life and would increase the already high percentage of pregnancies ending in death. Australia is a Christian country, therefore the proposition to remove proper Government control over such a dangerous and life threatening drug, is diametrically opposed to Christian teaching that **from conception, a new life has begun and has its rights equally as an individual has from birth.**

*Submission by Dr. Mark C.J. Craddock  
For and on Behalf of Brethren Christian Fellowship*

Every pregnancy needs skilled supervision, therefore the ready availability of the Abortifacient RU486 as a simplification of the miscarriage process is a serious myth. Obstetrics, in this day and age of STD's\*\* and their complications, is more of a minefield than ever before.

There are very many unexpected situations that can arise. For example, a twin pregnancy Where one is an ectopic and the other one is uterine and the former is unrecognized. Use of an abortifacient drug in this situation would likely cause potentially fatal intraperitoneal haemorrhage from the tubal rupture.

Retained products of conception are a common occurrence, and a potential cause of serious vaginal bleeding. Leaving the control of such situations to a 'tablet' has to be potentially the catalyst for serious medicolegal actions against prescribing doctors.

The use of RU486 would take the management of abortion away from the centres of skill and knowledge, with the inevitable lapses of safety that our litigious communities expect. Therefore, as sure as day follows night, doctors who prescribed it would sooner or later be embroiled in medico-legal actions of patients who would use any opportunity that presents itself to take legal action against the prescribing doctor. It would not be too difficult for a legal representative to show negligence on the part of the doctor on the grounds that the patient did not adequately understand the potential sequelae.

As a medical practitioner for over 45 years, I can recall very many instances where a woman has regretted her actions in the emotive circumstances that have led to an abortion and I have known women whose aborted child was the only pregnancy they were ever able to have, and the emotional burden that followed was enormous.

***The Parliament must not abdicate it's responsibility in this very serious matter by repealing Ministerial Responsibility and Accountability on a matter of such life threatening proportions.***

***We strongly appeal to the committee not to allow RU486 to be available for prescription as this drug has been designed to KILL AN UNBORN LIFE.***

\*\* STD's (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) are the main cause of pelvic inflammatory disease with it's complications of tubal infections and pregnancies.