

29th December 2005

Dear members of the Senate Committee on Community Affairs,

We are writing with concern about the Private Members Bill currently under your review to remove the power of the Health Minister to restrict the drug RU 486.

We believe this Bill undermines the already sound arrangements in place since 1996 which gives authority to the Health Minister to restrict this drug. This is not just another drug for medicinal use but is a formula that actually works to kill human life and as such should have the highest form of accountability.

This issue is not just about Women's Health. It involves deep moral and ethical aspects that we ignore at our peril. A living human embryo dies. Mothers pass a baby into a toilet at home or at work. How traumatic!

Is this something our Government should sanction, or indeed make more accessible?

Governments should be legislating to protect & maintain values such as the sanctity of human life that underpin our Australian Society.

Killing a baby can never be ethical.

We must rise against the tide of this convenience killing thinly masked as women's rights and be more accountable to the ethical values which will strengthen our society.

Another aspect to consider is the low rate of fertility in Australia.

We believe Governments should be actively encouraging motherhood and family by becoming creative in their policy making to this end.

Pregnancy is not an illness. The drug in question is not medicinal. It should not be freely available.

We ask you please to ensure the present legislation stands.

Mieke de Vries
State Secretary, Australian Family Association

Tas.