

From the Office of the President



**The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of
Obstetricians and
Gynaecologists**

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Mr Elton Humphery
Secretary
Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Mr Humphery,

On behalf of The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG), I would like to present our submission to the Senate Community Affairs Legislation Committee enquiry into the Private Members Bill.

As you may be aware, The RANZCOG announced on 9 November 2005 its support to the Australian Medical Associations' (AMA) position - endorsing the use of mifepristone (RU486) for medical termination of pregnancy.

The College states that mifepristone (RU486) has a proven role in fertility control. Its use in conjunction with prostaglandins, provides the option of medical termination of pregnancy, which in other countries is an option preferred by many women.

It is essential that mifepristone is used under medical supervision and used within evidence-based protocols and systems that include backup medical facilities and personnel equipped to deal with any adverse effects of the drug's administration.

We believe that best practice in this field includes the option of using mifepristone when termination of pregnancy is to be performed.

Attached with this submission are three documents for your information:

- *Termination of Pregnancy – A Resource for Health Professionals*
- *RANZCOG Statement on Mifepristone 2005*; and
- A paper titled: '*Progesterone antagonists and progesterone receptor modulators: an overview*', by Irving M Spritz. *Steroids*, Volume 68, 2003, p.981-993.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Kenneth Clark
President

