

Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

RE: Inquiry into Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for approval of RU486) Bill 2005

**Women's Department, Students' Association of the University of
Adelaide**

Presented by Tara Bates, Women's Vice President

The Students' Association of Adelaide University (SAUA) is the peak representative body for all students enrolled at the University of Adelaide. The SAUA is an affiliate of the Adelaide University Union, as legislated in Section 21 of the University of Adelaide Act 1971. The Women's Department of the SAUA provides a wide range of services - advocacy, sexual harassment counselling, events and political campaigns on important issues affecting women.

The Women's Department welcomes this opportunity to present our views regarding the ***Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for approval of RU486) Bill 2005***. This submission is guided by section 4)ix of the Women's Department Policy which states:

4)ix *Reproductive Rights*

1.1 Preamble

The SAUA respects every woman's right to control her own fertility in a safe way, as she sees fit.

1.2 Platform

- 1.2.1. The SAUA believes that each woman should have access to accurate and detailed information regarding her fertility, and available contraception.
- 1.2.2. The SAUA supports women's right to choose, safe abortion.
- 1.2.3. The SAUA believes that contraception is the responsibility of both men and women

1.3 Action

- 1.3.1. The SAUA will make available to both women and men information regarding fertility and contraception. Moreover, this information will be presented in a way, which makes it clear that contraception is the responsibility of both people.
- 1.3.2. The SAUA will act as a referral service for women wanting to have an abortion or counselling regarding their pregnancy options
- 1.3.3. The SAUA will lobby for the continued improvement of abortion services, fighting against attacks upon the availability of abortion as well as attacks on abortion funding.

The Women's Department is proud to support the *Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for approval of RU486) Bill 2005*.

The Women's Department believes the Therapeutic Goods Administration is in the best position both in terms of resources, knowledge and experience to determine the availability and oversee the provision of any therapeutic goods.

The Women's Department does not agree with a law that leaves the availability this resource subject to the personal opinions of one Minister, when all other therapeutic goods are subject to a wide and rigorous assessment.