



MEDIA RELEASE

Thursday 2 March 2006

NEW PREGNANCY COUNSELLING SERVICE WELCOMED

The Life Office, Archdiocese of Sydney, welcomes the Government's pregnancy support counselling package. It is a step in the right direction.

Professional counselling, independent of abortion providers, will provide women with the information and space that might not otherwise be available to them. Good counselling will support good decision making.

Pregnancy is a life changing event. Pregnant women need the support of their spouses or partners, families and the community. This initiative is a genuine attempt to improve the health and happiness of Australian women and families.

It is a practical and positive attempt to try and reduce the incidence of abortion in Australia.

It addresses increased public concern about the high incidence of abortion in Australia. A major in-depth investigation of Australian's attitudes to abortion conducted by the Southern Cross Bioethics Institute found that most of the community believes that a woman contemplating abortion should seek advice from more than one source, such as a health professional independent of the abortion provider, a relative or friend, or a professional counselling service. But the majority of the community (58%) indicate that they would not know where to refer a woman for alternative services during or after a pregnancy. This package will begin to address this discrepancy by improving knowledge of, and access to, a range of support services.

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