



Choice News

Positive perspectives on Life Events

Number October/November 2011



The first step towards Pregnancy Support in Darwin



THE NEED

There are various services to assist people, especially, young people in need around Darwin and in many aboriginal communities. However there is a **desperate need for supportive counselling** and advice for those women who are facing the challenge of an unexpected pregnancy.

Indigenous Teenage Pregnancies 4 times National Average

In 2007 the fertility rate for indigenous mothers aged 15-19 was 70 babies per 1000 (the rate was 58 in 2004) compared to 16 per 1000 for those 15-19 in the general population. (ABS Births Australia 2007)



Michelle Macormic conducting an ultrasound scan at the Pregnancy Problem House in Perth

Teenage Abortions

Aborigines make up 2.5% of Australia's total population. If aboriginal teen pregnancies are 4 times the national average and, generally speaking, 50% of all teen pregnancies end in an abortion then the **numerical impact on the aboriginal population is highly significant**. This is based on the assumption that that only 50% of indigenous babies are aborted. Anecdotal indi-

cations suggest the abortion rate may be much higher. **The message of the value of life is essential to sustain the future aboriginal population.**

The Law

Under the Northern Territory Criminal Code Act 1983 Sections 172, 173 and 174 terminations are legally available up to 14 weeks where two doctors agree that it is justified on the basis of "foetal abnormality" or "maternal health". Abortions may be done up to 23 weeks if the mother's life is at risk (determined by 2 doctors). The Act requires that all abortions be done by a gynaecologist or obstetrician in a hospital and currently they are all performed at Royal Darwin Hospital (approximately 25 a week) and Alice Springs Hospital. In Darwin all abortions are done by a visiting doctor, flown in by the hospital, because the local specialists don't want to be routinely involved in this procedure.

The Loneliness of abortion

Possibly under an interpretation of the law (Section 173 "outlaws aiding and abetting the procurement of abortion") **a girl cannot be escorted to have**



Jenny Sparks (speaking at the Public Meeting on 7 August) was a mum at 19. She has a passion for teenagers to know the truth

Young Australians deserve to know the scientific facts, ethics and attitudes surrounding the commencement of human life.

The Choices of Life Inc, PO Box 459, GORDON NSW 2072
PH 9499 5108 FAX 9498 7183
info@choicesoflife.com.au www.choicesoflife.com.au



Dwight Randall, Founder of the Pregnancy Problem House, Perth.

the abortion. Unlike any other medical procedure, she has to face the often traumatic visit to the hospital totally on her own. **The medical staff are prevented from offering any support or counselling. The need for support is desperate.**

PUBLIC MEETING—7 August

On 7 August **thirty people, from various Darwin churches,** gathered to consider what could be done collectively to address this desperate situation. The focus was on the establishment of a pregnancy support service in Darwin which certainly would have an impact into the aboriginal communities.

Jenny Sparks (pictured) shared about her own passion for the teenage girls that are confused about their options and are often directed to have an abortion. Because of her own experience as a pregnant teenager she wants to encourage them that “children, even though they may change the direction of your life, they don’t ruin it.”

Dwight Randall, founder of the Pregnancy Problem House in Perth, shared from his 25 years of experience in pregnancy counselling. The Director, **Michelle Macormic** (unable to be present), with Dwight, has committed to



Young girl from Manmoyi in NW Arnhem Land

Congratulations Abigail NSW Parliament House



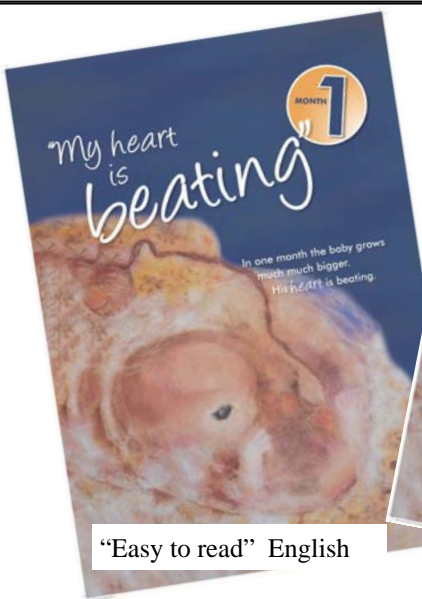
On 25th July **Abigail Palibino** (a 15 year-old student from Gosford High) was a **special guest speaker at the Christian World View Forum, sponsored by Fred Nile MLC, at the NSW Parliament House.** She provided a brilliant expose of the Green agenda, particularly in relation to the statements they make about the value of human life. She has a clear understanding that the words they use do not accurately represent what they really believe. They are totally pro-abortion and therefore against the value of every human life, especially the unborn. **Bruce Coleman** focussed his contribution on the importance of taking the message of the value of human life into the schools as one strategy to defeat this deceptive agenda of the Greens.



assist in training and providing direction for the development of such a service. **Lives are being saved every week in Perth because of PPH and when the facility is functioning in Darwin there is great potential to save the lives of babies and their mothers.**

A **school nurse** expressed her concern that she is no longer allowed to do pregnancy tests. Some time ago, when such tests were allowed, she was able to provide options for a student who found herself pregnant. Now the pervading mindset of personal development teachers is to encourage the use of condoms as a form of so-called “safe sex” and abortion as the only solution to a “problem” pregnancy. **The nurse was appalled at how little the students knew about the development of the unborn child.** She said, “We need to start something in Darwin so our young people don’t have abortions”.

Two Indigenous Translations Completed Pre-born Development Posters



“Easy to read” English



Australian Aboriginal Kriol



NW Arnhem Land Kunwinjku

The series of 10 posters (conception to birth) has been used in schools across Australia for the past 10 years. The attractive pictures and the detailed descriptions have provided students with an amazing picture of life in the womb. In 2010 during the visit to Darwin it became evident that the detailed descriptions needed to be simplified. With the expert assistance of **Dave Glasgow**, a long term translator and missionary with SIL (Australian Society for Indigenous Languages), the 'easy to read' English posters were completed.

Kriol posters—Margaret Mickan (also of SIL) directed the Kriol translation with the able assistance of **Marie Sammy** and her husband **Trevor Carew** and son **Randall Carew** and **Olga Kamaranga** checked the translation

Kunwinjku Posters—While I was traveling in NW Arnhem Land **Noelene Guy-**



Noelene translating into Kunwinjku

mala completed a translation into Kunwinjku, the main language in many parts of that area.

Thank you A sincere thank you to all who have been involved in these important projects. **Now that message of the value of life will be available in the heart language of many in Arnhem Land.**

What's Next?

It has been suggested that the posters, or video presentations of the information, could be **made available to Health Workers and Community Health Clinics in the Northern Territory for use in pre-natal education.** Because of cultural sensitivities in many communities a male would be precluded from speaking about such issues. In one area it has been noted that even the women will not talk at all about the baby or the pregnancy until he/she is born. **The development of these resources is important but must be done respecting the cultural values of those we are trying to reach with this message.**



Presentation, using the posters, to a mob (the aboriginal term for any group) in Gumarrirnbang

US court blocks ultrasound abortion law



Texas Governor and Republican Presidential hopeful, Rick Perry, signed the state sonogram legislation into law on 24th May 2011. The law required a woman to wait 24 hours after the sonogram before

having an abortion. Women would have the option of seeing the sonogram and hearing the heartbeat. **The doctor would be required to describe the features and size of the embryo.**

"This important sonogram legislation ensures that every Texas woman seeking an abortion **has all the facts about the life she is carrying, and understands the devastating impact of such a life-changing decision,**" stated Mr Perry. The Governor heralded it as the strongest pro-life sonogram legislation in the USA and a support to the Woman's Right to Know Act of 2003. **Both Acts would ensure a woman was fully informed before making an abortion decision.**

However on 31 August the local Austin (Texas) Court found the statute unconstitutional as it required doctors to tell patients details that were not medically relevant. The court placed a temporary restraining order against the state, making the law in effect unenforceable. The court decision is now the subject of an appeal.

Pro-life groups present Chile president with award

On 26 March 2011 a group of 37 pro-life organizations active at the United Nations presented the International Protect Life Award to **Chilean President Sebastián Piñera Echenique** in an event that was covered by the country's television networks and other major media.



Dan Zeidler, coordinator of the International Committee for the Protection of Life, praised the pro-life policies of the Chilean government, pointing out that **the country's prohibition of all surgical abortions is accompanied by the lowest infant mortality rate in Latin America.**

"We celebrate that more Chilean women have given birth more safely than ever," Zeidler said. "Chile is a good example for other countries of the world that are trying to reduce their maternal mortality to reach the Millennium Development Goals of the UNO (United Nations Organization)."

Piñera's government has also maintained policies that care for women facing difficult pregnancies and promote the value of human life in television campaigns. **The government's "Committed to Life" program offers assistance to women who face financial challenges and other problems during their pregnancies.** The "Chile Grows with You" advertising campaign features a pregnant woman with the slogan, **"My (unborn) child hears and experiences the world just as I do. We're connected!"** The ad says: "An invitation from the government to protect children." (LifeSiteNews.com)

BOOK NOW

CHOICES OF LIFE ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND FAMILY CAMP

Fri 13 to Sun 15 January 2012

Elanora Conference Centre
on Sydney's Northern Beaches
APPLICATION FORM ENCLOSED

Name
Address
.....
Suburbpostcode
Phone ..(.....).....
Email

Please return to: CHOICES OF LIFE
PO BOX 459 GORDON NSW 2072

Please charge each month to my credit card until I advise otherwise

OR a one off donation of:

\$50 \$100 \$200 or my choice

My cheque payable to CHOICES OF LIFE

Debit to my credit card

MasterCard Visa Amex

_____/_____/_____/_____

20

Name on Card _____

Signature _____ Expiry ____/____