



RIGHT TO LIFE NEWS

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 2012

Qld Poll 24 March



Anna Bligh is a member of the pro-abortion Emily's List

As you would be aware, the Queensland election will be held on 24th March 2012.

It is very unusual for controversial social legislation to be introduced into a Parliament within such close proximity to the due date for an election. The Bligh Labor Government however, which is looking increasingly likely to lose office to the Liberal National Party opposition, has shown that it is willing to engage in controversial debates at this time as we saw through its recent support for a Labor Private Member's Bill which introduced same-sex civil unions to Queensland.



Campbell Newman

Alarming, Right to Life has received information to suggest that the Government, is likely to attempt to rush through the Queensland Parliament, Victorian style "Abortion Law Reform". This could be done either through the form of Government backed legislation as occurred in 2008 in Victoria or it could be introduced as a Private Member's Bill by a Labor Member of Parliament with the backing of the Cabinet as occurred with the recent civil unions' debate.

It is unusual for a Government to embark on this type of 'social morality' legislative agenda this close to an election for fear of causing controversy and alienating people unnecessarily, however seeing as the Labor Government is polling very poorly, this may be an attempt to court favour with left leaning constituents who might otherwise vote Green, or simply a last ditch attempt by Premier Bligh to repay her Emily's List backers.

It is therefore vital that Right to Life members in Queensland contact Premier Anna Bligh, the Attorney General Paul Lucas as well as their local members, expressing their opposition to the removal of the remaining protections for the unborn in Queensland.

Explain to them that you do not wish to see Queensland head down the Victorian path of decriminalised abortion, a system that has led to substantial increase in late term abortions alone at the Royal Women's Hospital in Victoria, the same Hospital that recently botched the late term abortion of a 32 week twin baby and instead killed the twins brother as well.

Stephen Jury, Political Strategist

'Woman dies after abortion clinic visit' and 'Twin boy aborted at 32 weeks' SEE PAGE 3

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In an interview with the Brisbane Times, Mr Newman, the Opposition Leader, said about abortion

"We have a position where we see no changes to the current law. We won't be making any changes there whatsoever."

Based on a 1986 District Court ruling abortion is legal if performed "for the preservation of the mother's life" and if it is "reasonable having regard to the patient's state at the time and to all the circumstances".

HIDDEN NEWS

On 26 January, Lucie van den Berg of the Herald Sun reported "Croydon Clinic stops late term abortions." The Croydon Marie Stopes clinic will no longer give abortions to women post 24 weeks. The CEO of Marie Stopes International said it was in the process of taking over full management and ownership of the clinic and it was an operational decision to stop the service. She said it was "intensely demanding."

This is the same clinic that aggressively advertised its expertise in late term abortions on the internet and in brochures to medical practitioners, where the woman died after visiting the clinic in December 2012, where Pheap Sem went into organ failure during an late term abortion last year, where Dr Mark Schulberg was found guilty of unprofessional conduct by the Medical Practitioner's Board for failing to gain consent to do a 25 week abortion on an intellectually disabled woman and where over 50 women were infected with hepatitis C from anaesthetist James Latham Peters.

How many incidents have to occur before this place is closed down?

The Royal Woman's Hospital does late term abortions and is where the twin boys were aborted at 32 weeks. One had a heart defect, but the healthy baby was aborted. When this was realised the other twin was also aborted.

RALLY FOR LIFE 2012 Queensland
Sat 11 Feb 2p.m.

Corner William, Elizabeth and George Sts. Brisbane



Rick Santorum



Newt Gingrich

The race for U.S. primaries heats up . . .

Mr. Gingrich's win in Saturday's South Carolina primary illustrates two things. First, the old adage that a good offence is the best defense has some truth to it, and second that Republicans aren't sold on Mitt Romney. Republicans for the most part, and with some justification, believe the media is biased against them. They further resent the "free pass" or lack of scrutiny Mr. Obama

received in 2008. When the press alleged marital infidelity on the part of Mr. Cain, many Republicans viewed the allegations with skepticism and as an example of selective investigation. This attitude may have had something to do with the backfiring of the interview with Mr. Gingrich's former wife and Mr. King's questioning of Mr. Gingrich on the CNN debate, shortly before the primary. It may, however, not be the last we hear of Mr. Gingrich's marital history.

Mr. Romney is vulnerable on several fronts. First, he has a reputation for flip-flopping on social issues. Second, he is saddled with "RomneyCare", the state health insurance program he supported when he was governor of Massachusetts. Third, his record as head of Bain Capital is going to be under the microscope. The allegation is that Bain took over troubled companies and solved their financial problems by large scale firings. His reluctance to release his tax returns became an issue in the week before the South Carolina primary. There have been allegations of accounts in the Cayman Islands, a well-known tax haven. Lastly, his Mormon religion is a problem for many evangelicals.

In addition to his marital problems, Mr. Gingrich has made a video with former House Speaker Nancy Pelosi on global warming, and has taken over a million dollars from Freddie Mac. All of these can cause problems for him among Republican voters in Florida and elsewhere. Some consider his boldness and a desire to secure a place in history (he is an historian) indicative of potential impulsive behavior. On the plus side, he has one of the sharpest political minds in the country. His "Contract with America" helped return the House of Representatives to Republican Control after forty years in the hands of the Democrats. In addition, he has always been pro-life.

Mr. Santorum did not receive the boost from his win in Iowa that he should have in part because by the time Iowans had finished voting, virtually all of the air time in New Hampshire had been sold. (Before his Iowa win he didn't have the money for a media buy). He has not connected with conservative voters as well as he needs to in order to succeed. The fact that his campaign has fairly

limited funds will hurt him in Florida with ten media markets, some of which are expensive. I don't think Mr. Perry's endorsement of Mr. Gingrich hurt Mr. Santorum very much since Perry was only polling around six percent in South Carolina when he got out and of course not all of his supporters would have gone to Gingrich.

The primary system in the U.S. is complicated by the fact that each state's primary rules are different and the rules for each party within the same state can also differ. Iowa, for instance, requires caucus goers to show up on a normally cold and snowy night and spend a couple of hours trying to reach a consensus. This attracts the "ground glass" Republicans. (Those who would crawl on their knees over ground glass to reach the polls; voting as you probably recall, is optional in the U.S.). In New Hampshire voters can change party affiliation on the day of the primary. In years in which there is no contest in one party, mischief makers are free to vote in the other party's primary. South Carolina is a closed primary state, in that only those who have been registered Republicans for approximately thirty days can vote. Some states in the Republican Party (not in the Democratic Party) are "winner take all", some are proportional, and a few have unique and complex formulae for allocating delegates. Many change their rules every four years. As a result of this complicated system neither Mr. Gingrich (who was low on funds) nor Mr. Perry (who had lots of money) is to appear on the ballot in Virginia

But back to South Carolina, this win is huge for Mr. Gingrich and a real problem for Mr. Romney. Florida is the next state on the calendar. It is the fourth largest in the country. The two major Republican politicians in Florida, Former Governor Jebb Bush and Senator Marco Rubio have chosen not to endorse anybody. It is a highly diverse state. It includes the "Redneck Rivera" (in the Panhandle), large numbers of retirees from the North, Cuban refugees and their children and grandchildren as well as more recent immigrants from other parts of Latin America and Haiti. Two hundred thousand absentee ballots had already been cast before the results of South Carolina were known; these are expected to go mostly for Mr. Romney. The fact that it is a closed primary state (one in which only registered Republicans may vote) may hurt Mr. Romney, Democrats and Independents can't help him. There are two debates scheduled before the vote on January 31st. These are critical. So far they have helped Mr. Gingrich. The big fear is that any nominee will be so damaged by the process that Mr. Obama will win.

There is talk of someone else entering the contest, but time is making that more difficult. This race could go on for some time.

Kathy Edgeworth

U.S. Correspondent

[To kill another] 'That is a choice no one should want or have'
Rick Santorum

Victoria the black abyss

Throughout the course of last year, we have endeavoured to keep members in their relevant states up-to-date with matters that have arisen politically regarding life issues. In Victoria we have endeavoured to keep all members up to date with the ongoing developments that are occurring as a result of the legalisation of abortion leading to no protection for human life.

In Victoria, the newly elected Liberal/National Coalition Government is now a little over one year old. And give or take a few factors, is going along reasonably well at a steady pace in terms of activity. The Premier, Ted Baillieu, is rather popular according to polling data. The past year also saw an alarming number of incidents occur surrounding the abortion issue that have been kept relatively quiet but did make it into the media. Incidents that occurred last year in Victoria include:

- The death of a 42-year-old patient at Marie Stopes International's Maroondah Clinic in Croydon as reported in *The Age* newspaper on the 21st of December last year.
- The accidental termination of healthy 32-week-old baby, when the intended victim has been the other twin in the womb due to that twin having a 'heart defect', as reported on the front page of the *Herald Sun* on the 24th November.
- The near death of another woman after undergoing the early phases of a late term abortion, also at the Croydon clinic as reported by *The Sunday Age* on the 23rd of October.

All of these incidents indicate both the dangers that come with abortion, particularly late term abortion, as well as the 'cow boy' culture that has developed within the industry since all shackles were thrown off them in 2008 with the decriminalisation of Abortion by the previous Brumby Labor Government. On top of the above, as we have said before, late term abortions have escalated since 2008 and babies who are born alive as the result of an abortion continue to be left to die.

As we have also highlighted to members before, Right to Life Australia played a strong role in defeating many of the most electorally vulnerable pro-abortion MP's at the 2010 State Election, an activity we believe contributed to the downfall of the Brumby Government and the election of the Coalition to Government. Therefore, with this in mind, it is vital that we continue to make strong representations to members of the Government, highlighting we believe something must be done about abortion in this state to avoid a repeat of future occurrences similar to those listed above.

We know that many of our members have been in contact with their local Member of Parliament either by writing to them, or making appointments to visit them in their offices. It is vital that this sort of activity continues in 2012 so that Members of Parliament and the Government know that there is a groundswell of people in the community who see this issue as one of great concern and that it will not simply go away with another enquiry into each of the incidents listed above that the public never hears of.

Over the last decade, many monumental achievements have occurred for the unborn in the United States. *Born Alive Victims*

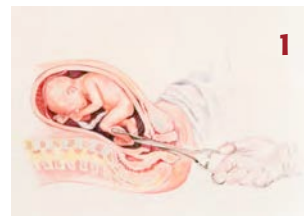
of Abortion acts have been passed in a number of places that protect babies born alive (something opposed by current President Barack Obama), *Partial Birth Abortion Bans* have been legislated, states such as the Ohio lower house has passed 'heartbeat legislation' which disallows abortion after the detection of the heartbeat of their unborn child, and other states have continued to pass acts that limit how long into a pregnancy an abortion can take place. Most recently, Governor Rick Perry of Texas has signed into law legislation that requires women to listen to the heartbeat of their unborn child and see an image of their child on their sonogram. One of the most active movements in the United States prolife movement continues to be the push for 'Personhood' through an amendment to state constitutions recognising life as beginning at conception.

All of these legislative changes make it harder and harder for the abortion industry to act as it pleases and assist the prolife movement in promoting a culture of life.

All of these ideas for change are possible options that Right to Life Australia members can seek to lobby Victorian Parliamentarians for. Rather than simply stating in a letter to a Member of Parliament that they are opposed to Abortion, a pro-life person could ask if their local Member is willing to push for legislative change similar to one of the above examples.

Again, it is vital that this type of lobbying continues into the new year and that people get in contact with the offices of the Premier Ted Baillieu, the Health Minister David Davis, the Attorney General Robert Clarke as well as their local Member of Parliament to express their views on this issue and to advocate in favour of legislative change. If you are after assistance with finding the office contact details for the Premier, the Health Minister, the Attorney General or your local Member please do not hesitate to contact our office on **(03) 9385 0100** and we can send you a copy of our last Action Alert for Victoria which includes these details.

Stephen Jury
Political Strategist



Partial-Birth Abortion
www.nrlc.org/abortion/pba/PBA.Images/PBA.Images.Heathers.Place.htm



International Law

The International Convention on the Rights of the Child, contains in its preamble, *“the child, by reason of his physical and mental immaturity, need special safeguards and care, including appropriate legal protection, before as well as after birth.”*

Despite this, some people pretend there is a right to abortion in international instruments. There is not. To counter this, a group of prominent professionals have written the “San Jose Articles.”

San Jose Articles

As a matter of scientific fact a new human life begins at conception.

Each human life is a continuum that begins at conception and advances in stages until death. Science gives different names to these stages, including zygote, blastocyst, embryo, fetus, infant, child, adolescent and adult. This does not change the scientific consensus that at all points of development each individual is a living member of the human species.

From conception each unborn child is by nature a human being.

All human beings, as members of the human family, are entitled to recognition of their inherent dignity and to protection of their inalienable human rights. This is recognized in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and other international instruments.

There exists no right to abortion under international law, either by way of treaty obligation or under customary international law. No United Nations treaty can accurately be cited as establishing or recognizing a right to abortion.

The Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW Committee) and other treaty monitoring bodies have directed governments to change their laws on abortion. These bodies have explicitly or implicitly interpreted the treaties to which they are subject as including a right to abortion.

Treaty monitoring bodies have no authority, either under the treaties that created them or under general international law, to interpret these treaties in ways that create new state obligations or that alter the substance of the treaties.

Accordingly, any such body that interprets a treaty to include a right to abortion acts beyond its authority and contrary to its mandate. Such *ultra vires* acts do not create any legal obligations for states parties to the treaty, nor should states accept them as contributing to the formation of new customary international law.

Assertions by international agencies or non-governmental actors that abortion is a human right are false and should be rejected.

There is no international legal obligation to provide access to abortion based on any ground, including but not limited to health, privacy or sexual autonomy, or non-discrimination.

Under basic principles of treaty interpretation in international law, consistent with the obligations of good faith and *pacta sunt servanda*, and in the exercise of their responsibility to defend the lives of their people, states may and should invoke treaty provisions guaranteeing the right to life as encompassing a state responsibility to protect the unborn child from abortion.

Governments and members of society should ensure that national laws and policies protect the human right to life from conception. They should also reject and condemn pressure to adopt laws that legalize or depenalize abortion.

Treaty monitoring bodies, United Nations agencies and officers, regional and national courts, and others should desist from implicit or explicit assertions of a right to abortion based upon international law.

When such false assertions are made, or pressures exerted, member states should demand accountability from the United Nations system.

Providers of development aid should not promote or fund abortions. They should not make aid conditional on a recipient's acceptance of abortion.

International maternal and child health care funding and programs should ensure a healthy outcome of pregnancy for both mother and child and should help mothers welcome new life in all circumstances.

We – human rights lawyers and advocates, scholars, elected officials, diplomats, and medical and international policy experts – hereby affirm these Articles.

San Jose, Costa Rica

March 25, 2011

* Institutions named for identifications purposes only.

Signed,

Lord David Alton, House of Lords, Great Britain

Dr. Gerardo Amarilla De Nicola, National Representative for Rivera, Eastern Republic of Uruguay

Carl Anderson, Supreme Knight, Knights of Columbus

Giuseppe Benagiano, Professor of Gynecology, Perinatology and Childcare – Università “la Sapienza”, Rome, former Secretary General – International Federation of Gynecology and Obstetrics (FIGO)

Professor William Binchy, Professor of Law, Trinity College Dublin, member of the Irish Human Rights Commission

Hon. Javier Borrego, former Judge, European Court of Human Rights

Christine Boutin, former Cabinet Minister – Government of France, current president Christian Democratic Party

Benjamin Bull, Chief Counsel, Alliance Defense Fund

Hon. Martha De Casco, Member of Parliament, Honduras

Hon. Tom Coburn M.D., Member, United States Senate

Jakob Cornides, human rights lawyer

Jan Figel', Government Minister (for Transport) of the Slovak Republic, Deputy Prime Minister, President of the Christian Democratic Party (KDH), former EU Commissioner for Education and Culture

Professor John Finnis, Oxford University, University of Notre Dame

Professor Robert George, McCormick Professor of Jurisprudence, Princeton University, former member of the President's Council on Bioethics

Professor John Haldane, Professor of Philosophy, University of St. Andrews

Patrick Kelly, Vice President for Public Policy, Knights of Columbus

Professor Elard Koch, Faculty of Medicine, University of Chile

Professor Santiago Legarre, Professor of Law, Pontificia Universidad Catolica Argentina

Leonard Leo, Former Delegate to the UN Human Rights Commission

Yuri Mantilla, Director, International Government Affairs, Focus on the Family

Hon. Elizabeth Montfort, former Member of the European Parliament

Senator Rónán Mullen, Member of the Irish Senate

Cristobal Orrego, Professor of Jurisprudence, University of the Andes (Chile)

Alojz Peterle, Member of the European Parliament, Slovenia, former Minister of Foreign Affairs and Deputy Prime Minister of Slovenia

Bernd Posselt, Member of the European Parliament, Germany

Gregor Puppink, Executive Director, European Center for Law and Justice

Ambassador Grover Joseph Rees, former US Ambassador to East Timor, Special US Representative to the UN on social issues

Austin Ruse, President, C-FAM

William Saunders, Human Right Lawyer, Senior Vice President, Americans United for Life, former delegate to the UN General Assembly

Alan Sears, President, CEO and General Counsel, Alliance Defense Fund

Marie Smith, President, Parliamentary Network for Critical Issues

Professor Carter Snead, Member, International Bioethics Committee, UNESCO and former U.S. Permanent Observer to the Council of Europe's Steering Committee on Bioethics, University of Notre Dame School of Law

Douglas Sylva, Delegate to the UN General Assembly

Hon. Francisco Tatad, former Majority Leader, Philippine Senate

Ambassador Alberto Vollmer, former Ambassador of Venezuela to the Holy See
Christine de Marcellus Vollmer, President of the Latin American Alliance for the Family

Hon. Luca Volonte, Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe, President of the European People's Party (PACE)



Born Alive Victims of Abortion – into the freezer

This photograph shows the horror of the abortion industry. It is a photo of babies who have

been aborted live and placed in a freezer to die by Philadelphia's serial baby-killer Kermit Gosnell and his abortion clinic death squad. Gosnell referred to his deadly trade as "ensuring fetal demise."

We have the same horror occurring closer to home. Hon Ann Bressington MLA (South Australia MP) said in her interview with radio station fiveAA in Adelaide late last year that she was told by one of the doctors (in a stakeholders' group she had set up to write an antiabortion brochure) that doctors have an ethical responsibility to care for a baby born alive after a termination. The interviewer from fiveAA asked her what happens to a baby born alive after a termination. She said that a doctor told her that babies who were born alive after a termination were "thrown into a kidney dish and wheeled into the freezer to die".

This horror must be exposed at the highest levels of government and to the public.

Computer Upgrade

We are upgrading our computer system, so that the computer will be able to record what State and Federal Electorate you are in, and we can specifically advise you of your representatives' views on the life issues. Our Website will become more dynamic and powerful to enable us to keep you up to date on developments, and respond to changes, threats and opportunities. You will be able to join, donate, and register for events and conferences online. We are having discussions with Energetica and plan to implement Joomla! and CiviCRM. Our new I.T. system will enable us to become a cutting edge advocacy and lobbying organisation. If you would like your Newsletter to be sent to you by email rather than posted, could you please email us at rtl@rtlaust.com.

STOP PRESS:

As we go to print we received an email from Justin Beall, Community Sales Associate, Energetica which states the following: "There are a lot of organisations that we are in contact with and they represent a diverse range of opinions and community groups. Everyone is entitled to their opinions and passions and we are fortunate that as individuals within Energetica "who we want to work with?" is considered. In fact, part of our company strategy is to work to our strengths and passions. As people have very definite opinions about your organisation I felt it necessary to put it to a vote as to whether we would like to work with Right to Life Australia. The result was that we didn't so we won't be submitting a response to your requirements."

We are now sourcing a new system supplier.

SHORT MOVIE TO BE BORN

This 12 minute film is based on a story called "A letter from an aborted child." The letter had been used for nearly 20 years by Father Stephen Lesniewski to show to women who had an unplanned pregnancy. He estimates he has saved over 500 babies by showing them this story. He had the film produced so it would reach a wider audience. This is a good film to show to mothers considering an abortion. It also contains a message of hope to women who have had an abortion.

Jill Stanek rated this, out of 4 stars; Production: **** Music **** Acting **** Story ***

Bequests

As we have moved and as some of you have most generously provided a donation to us in your Will, would you please advise your executor or lawyer to note our change of address? That way, a letter from them will not go to our old address and possibly be returned and not followed up. You can provide help to the Right to Life after you die, by including "The Right to Life Australia" in your Will.



SILVER CIRCLE - A PREGNANCY COUNSELLING AUSTRALIA FUNDRAISER

Results

November (No. 68) \$ 100 1st Mrs Wil Van Heuzen
– East Burwood, VIC
(No. 98) \$ 40 2nd Mrs Pat Peterson
– East Bentleigh, VIC

September (No. 31) \$ 100 1st Mrs Christine Adami
– Moonee Ponds, VIC
(No. 257) \$ 40 2nd Mrs Catherine
Schumann– Ferntree Gully, VIC

Want to Join? \$24 per annum

Phone (03) 9416 1686 or 0417 096 377

mail to: mkanergs@goodshp.com.au

Payments to **Pregnancy Counselling Australia**

19/7 Clarke Street, Abbotsford, Vic., 3067



Hammer & Co.
Photographers

MARY WALSH LEE LIST

Mary Walsh Lee was a South Australian suffragette who was founding secretary of the Women's Suffrage League and organised the 1894 petition of 11 600 signatures presented to the South Australian Parliament, requesting that women obtain the right to vote. The 1894 Parliament accepted the petition and also provided for women standing for election. She and the suffragettes were strongly pro-life. She created and became secretary of the Working Women's Trade Union and was the first female official visitor to the lunatic asylum.

Anna Dominguez Smith wants to create a group of people who will encourage and support pro-life women to stand for Parliament, in any party. If you would like to be a founding member of this group, please contact Anna on annadominguezsmith@gmail.com or 0429 811 755

Nitschke questioned

Kim Wheatley of *The Herald Sun* 23/01/12, reported that the Police will interview Dr Nitschke in relation to the death of a 61 year-old woman who had motor neurone disease. Medical authorities are investigating his attempt to import the death drug Nembutal as a sedative for her. She had written a letter, "In deciding to end my suffering, I hereby state that this act is by my own hand. I am assisted by no one." It is an offence to encourage or assist a person to commit suicide.

In an interview with Jenny Brockie on ABC *Speaking Personally* on 4/7/1997, Nitschke related a story about him killing the neighbour's dog. The dog annoyed him because he left bones near the back door. Nitschke was a 15 year old high school student boarding in a country town in South Australia. He tried to strangle the dog, but it did not work, so he got a knife and slit its throat. He was taken to the Magistrates' Court, and it was explained to him that this was anti-social behaviour. He was referred to a psychiatrist.

Examples of Pro Life Legislation (proposed or passed)

Personhood Amendment

<http://www.personhoodusa.com/>

Heartbeat Bill

www.legislature.state.oh.us/bills.cfm?ID=129_HB_125

Born Alive Victims of Abortion

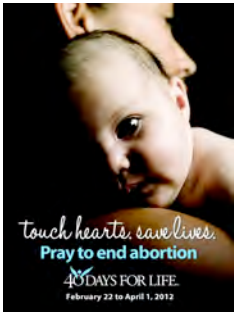
http://frwebgate.access.gpo.gov/cgi-bin/getdoc.cgi?dbname=107_cong_bills&docid=f:h2175enr.txt.pdf

Partial-Birth Abortion Ban

<http://caselaw.lp.findlaw.com/scripts/getcase.pl?court=US&vol=000&invol=05-380&friend=public>

Informed Consent

http://bachmann.house.gov/UploadedFiles/Heartbeat_Final_Draft_.pdf



Forty Days for Life

February 22 to April 1, 2012

Pray to end abortion

Touch hearts. Save lives.

Melbourne:

Contact: John 0431 894 529 or Kristina 0433 307 731

Contact: www.vigilcalendar.com/melbourne

Sydney:

Contact: Tel: 02 9519 9111

Brisbane:

Contact: Tel: (07) 3149 3289

Perth:

Contact: www.justicemandate.org

Adelaide:

Contact Tel: (08) 8363 5044

thomasmore@chariot.com.au

Hobart:

Erinn McDonnell Tel: 0407 694 137

fortydaysforlife@hotmail.com



Invitation to Japanese Dinner

on Saturday 25th February 2012

At Skye 3977 (near Seaford).

Menu: Sushi, Miso Soup, Tempura, Udon Noodles, Yakitori, pancakes

Cost: \$50, \$45 Concession Bring gold coins for games.

RSVP: 20th February 2012

To order tickets email: Rtl@Rtlaust.com or

telephone 03 9385 0100

Life Walk 2012

Keep the following dates free: **Thur 10 - Sat 12 May 2012**

Three days of innovative fundraising and witness in Melbourne, the abortion capital of the Southern Hemisphere

Ring Right to Life Australia office for details of planned activity

Thank You

Many Thanks for your excellent response and donations of almost \$36,000 to the Pregnancy Counselling Australia Campaign. This will significantly contribute to paying for telephone calls of distressed mothers faced with problems and pregnancy.

24 Hour Helpline 1300 737 732

www.pregnancycounselling.com.au

An Invitation to a special Right to Life Dinner on Saturday, 17th March 2012

At The Whitehorse Club, 298 Burwood Highway, East Burwood

7p.m. – 12 midnight

Speaker : Mrs Jan Kronberg

State Member for Eastern Metropolitan Region (Upper House)

Jan had been outspoken in her defence of unborn children in the Parliament. Come and hear the latest on what is happening in the Victorian Parliament with respect to the life issues that we care about so much. Can we bring Victoria to life?

Cost: \$60, \$55 Concession, incl. main meal and dessert, tea/coffee.

Dress: After Five

Cash bar open on the night. Door Prizes, Silent Auction

RSVP: 5th March 2012 To book please email:

rtl@rtlaust.com or telephone 03 9385 0100



Pregnancy Counselling Australia

161A Donald Street, East Brunswick, Melbourne, Vic. 3057
Phone (administration) (03) 9386 1255 Counselling (24 hours) 1300 737 732
Website: www.pregnancycounselling.com.au

Invitation to Pregnancy Counselling Australia Dinner on Saturday 28th April 2012

At Aurora Receptions, 149 Donald St.
Brunswick East 3057

Cost: \$70, \$65 Concession, includes
main meal, soft drinks, dessert,
tea/coffee

**Cash bar open on the night
Auction and entertainment**

The money raised will help save
babies' lives.

Invite your friends and family.

RSVP: 10th April 2012

To book a table of 10 or individual
tickets, email rtl@rtlaust.com

or telephone 9385 0100

[Doris Rossi for PCA]

Pregnancy Counselling Australia



News from around the world

United States

www.personhoodusa.com

Personhood USA is an organisation that says all humans are persons and works towards achieving a definition of "person" that includes unborn children. This would ensure that the Right to Life applies to unborn children. It is the new civil rights movements of the 21st century. They define: PERSONHOOD *"The inalienable right to life possessed by every human being is present from the moment of initial formation, and all human beings shall be entitled to the equal protection of persons under the law."*

The Republican candidates who signed the Personhood Pledge are Rick Santorum, Newt Gingrich and Ron Paul.

Rick Santorum

"I don't think life begins at conception. I know life begins at conception."

The Personhood Bill "would recognize life from conception to natural death as what it is, a human life. We do not differentiate stages of development, or mental capacity, or capacity at the end of life, as being any less of a person. Personhood is defined as an entity that is genetically as human and alive- it is a person as contemplated under our Constitution. The legislation is one that would be simple and brief and to the point."

Newt Gingrich

"All life is sacred"

Regarding the right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, he asked, "Who is the "we" that are endowed? When does that endowment begin?" "Congress shall decide personhood. "What is a person? I think one way to solve this would be to write the Bill so that it is not appealable. "On the very first day I will sign an Executive Order reinstating Ronald Reagan's Mexican City Policy. No U.S. money will be used for abortion. I will also move to defund Planned Parenthood and transfer the money from Planned Parenthood to adoption services. I would also overhaul the U.S. Foreign Service to get rid of the people who are aggressively pro-abortion. " He explained that the Hyde Amendment had rape and incest exceptions in order to get it through he said that we must "find other ways to compensate."

Ron Paul

"You can't have liberty without life"

Ron Paul was an obstetrician and his pro-life views are based on science. He said one of the greatest breakthroughs was the invention of the ultrasound. "I can talk to [opponents] and say, look, I'll show you an ultrasound," he said, "I'll show you what they're doing. This is an act of violence." He agreed Planned Parenthood should be defunded. He hopes to build a constitutional amendment banning abortion while pursuing a constitutional method to help the culture of life turn itself around on the state level. This include Personhood legislation which he personally introduced into the U.S. Congress as well as measures to take the power away from federal Courts to mandate a "right" to abortion.

Mitt Romney failed to sign the Personhood Pledge and failed to attend the personhood meetings, despite invitations.

New Zealand

Good News from Earthquake Ravaged Christchurch

[Newsletter of Right to Life New Zealand Inc. December Issue, Vol 18. No. 3 2011]

<http://righttolife.org.nz/footprints-magazine/>

Recently a technician employed by the

Canterbury District Health Board approached Right to Life New Zealand seeking help. She had been summoned by her employer to a disciplinary meeting and threatened with dismissal if she did not perform the duty of assisting in preparing instruments to be used for abortions. The technician refused to perform the duty and asked for assistance from RTL about her rights. She was advised that in New Zealand the Contraception Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977, [CS & A Act] Sec 46, provides protection for conscientious objection. The section reads *-, notwithstanding anything in any other enactment, or any rule of law, or the terms of any oath or of any contract [whether of employment or otherwise], no registered medical practitioner, registered nurse, or other person shall be under any obligation-*

[a] To perform or assist in the performance of an abortion or any operation undertaken or to be undertaken for the purpose of rendering the patient sterile:

Since this time two further technicians have advised the management at Christchurch Public Hospital that they are no longer prepared to assist in the killing of unborn children. It was their duty to prepare instruments used for terminating the lives of unborn children. This courageous action follows the recent refusal of a technician at the Christchurch Public Hospital. These three technicians are opposed to the killing of the innocent and refuse to assist in the killing of the unborn, on the grounds that it is contrary to their conscience. They have only recently learnt of their right to refuse to assist in abortions by the example of their colleague and through the assistance of Right to Life New Zealand.

Right to Life New Zealand commends these courageous women for refusing to assist in abortions and calls upon doctors, nurses and other staff in the public health service to follow their informed conscience and refuse to perform or assist in the killing of the unborn.

Russia

After years of demographic decline, Russian parliament votes to restrict abortion.

by Matthew Cullinan Hoffman October 21, 2011 (LifeSiteNews.com)

Russia's national parliament, the Federal Assembly, has voted to restrict abortion for the first time in decades, in the face of a demographic decline that has reduced the population by 2.9% since 1992.

The new law, which is expected to be signed by Russian President Dmitry Medvedev, prohibits abortions beyond the 12th week of pregnancy, and imposes a mandatory waiting period of between two and seven days. Exceptions are permitted for economic hardship, which allows abortions up to the point 22 weeks of gestation.

Legislators discarded proposals by the Orthodox Church to require the consent of the husband or the parents of an underage child, and also did not provide for conscientious objection for doctors who do not wish to perform the deadly procedure.

The restrictions represent the first attempt to arrest the demographic decline of Russia, which has been underway since abortion laws were liberalized in the mid-1960s.

Decline in the country's population is caused by a number of factors. Since the Communist era, abortion has been the primary way of avoiding birth, resulting in an annual six million abortions every year, in a country with a population of only 143 million people.

The current birth rate is approximately 12.5 per 1,000 people, down from 26.9 in 1950. The average number of children per family is 1.4, well below

replacement rate, and the death rate has almost doubled since 1960, to 14.2 per 1,000.

The country has also been decimated by a deadly plague of alcoholism and unhealthy living among men, which lowered the average male life expectancy to 58 in 1999. Although male life expectancy has since rebounded to 62 years, it remains very low in relation to European averages, and approximately eight years fewer than women. The death rate for Russian men between 22 and 45 years of age is five times higher than the average for Western Europe.

In addition to restricting abortion, Russia has also created the "mother capital" policy, which pays mothers approximately \$10,000 for having more children. However, the population has continued to fall since the implementation of the policy.

Canada

Female Feticide requires action

[Canadian Medical Journal Association, 16/01/2012]

Canada should prohibit disclosure of the sex of an unborn child until after 30 weeks of pregnancy to combat female feticide which is practiced by some ethnic groups in Canada and the United States, states as editorial in CMAJ, (Canadian Medical Association Journal). Female feticide is an issue in several Asian countries including India, China, Korea and Vietnam. "This evil devalues women. How can it be curbed? The solution is to postpone the disclosure of medically irrelevant information to women until about 30 weeks of pregnancy," writes Dr Rajendra Kale, interim editor-in-chief, CMAJ. "If Canada cannot control this repugnant practice, what hope do India and China have of saving millions of women?" concludes Dr Kale.

France

Record turnout for Paris March for Life: unprecedented support from Catholic Church by Jeanne Smits, Paris correspondent January 23, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com)

This year's march was considered especially crucial by local pro-lifers, since 2012 will see presidential and legislative elections in France. While the abortion issue has been more or less ignored in political debate in recent years, the organizers of the March for Life hope that the increasingly popular event will help draw attention to the issue.

One of the more hopeful signs this year was the increasing support of the French hierarchy of the Catholic Church for the event, including a surprising about-face from the Paris cardinal.

Just before the 2009 edition of the March for Life, Cardinal André Vingt-Trois had clearly dissociated himself from the initiative during an interview on the official Parisian Catholic radio station, Radio Notre Dame. The cardinal suggested that from a "tactical" standpoint, "I don't think the objective should be to yell things from the rooftops: what's needed is work, to help with the work. And if you're serious about that, results will follow and you'll be heard."

However, since then Pope Benedict XVI has sent messages of support to the Paris March for Life in 2011 and again this year.

Increasing pressure from pro-life Catholics, a growing number of bishops throwing their weight behind the March – 32 in total – and the enthusiasm of the young generation of Parisian priests have tipped the balance. In November Cardinal Vingt-Trois, in his final speech to the Assembly of the French episcopate, named the March for Life as "one of the means of action Christians choose" to promote respect for human life.