



Abortion Pill death sparked warning

(An abridged version) Source: The Australian 19/3/12

AUSTRALIA has had its first death of a woman using the abortion pill to terminate her pregnancy at home.

Health regulator the Therapeutic Goods Administration issued a notice to doctors and clinics to review their follow-up care in light of the "bedroom abortion" gone wrong.

The woman, unnamed by authorities, had been treated by the country's largest private abortion service, Marie Stopes International Australia, in 2010. She is believed to have developed a streptococcus A infection and died of sepsis.

MSIA clinical services director Jill Michelson said of the woman's death: "This is a tragic outcome and our sympathies are with her family. The coroner dispensed with holding an inquest, and the case is closed."

Ms Michelson said the woman had died of sepsis "some days after" having the medical abortion at one of MSIA's 14 Australian clinics.

The TGA said clinics should ensure they had patients' 24-hour contacts plus a back-up number, and ask the woman to commit to reporting in between 48 and 72 hours after taking RU486.

Dr John James National President of Right to Life

Australia commented:

The National President of Right to Life Australia, Dr John James, issued the following statement after a recent report of the death of a woman, using the abortion drug, Mifepristone, in Australia. (RU 486):

"The reported death of a woman using RU 486, supplied by the International abortion provider Marie

Stopes International, under TGA approval, is further evidence of the dangers of this drug and the foolishness of the TGA, and other medical authorities, who have acceded to this latest demand for abortion access.



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The drug has been associated with several deaths overseas due to overwhelming sepsis (infection) in otherwise fit and healthy young women.

It has long been postulated that this drug has inherent immunosuppressive properties because of its cortisol blocking effects. The drug was originally developed as a potential treatment for Cushing's syndrome, a disease characterised by an excess of cortisol. The immune system, however, relies, in part, on cortisol induced activity, to mount an effective response to infection.

Other deaths have been attributed to women bleeding to death at home. The demands for access to this deadly cocktail of drugs, by the abortion industry, which profits from the sale of these medications, is further evidence of how the war on the unborn is also a war on their mothers."



Life Walk

10 - 12 May 2012

Melbourne Surrounds

Book now

www.righttolife.com.au

03 9385 0100



Right to Life Australia Annual Conference Melbourne July 6, 7 & 8th.
Guest Speaker – Jill Stanek from Illinois U.S.

Jill, a nurse has played a major role in fighting for the rights of babies aborted live and left to die. She has been the catalyst for legislation which protects these infants, and is well known in the U.S. for her eloquent defence of human life in the media.



Ryan, far left, in a Target children's clothing ad

Boy with Down Syndrome Steals the Spotlight in Target, Nordstrom Ads

The best part? The retail companies didn't turn Ryan's casting into a publicity stunt

By Allison Berry *lifesitenews* January 9, 2012

Ryan, 6, is a natural child model, sporting blond hair, blue eyes and all-American confidence. But he also has Down syndrome, which is unusual in the worlds of modeling and national advertising.

Target cast Ryan in its latest children's clothing ad, and Nordstrom featured him in a campaign several months ago. Notably, Target did not publicize his inclusion; there were no self-congratulatory press releases or pats on the back, signaling that Ryan's presence in the catalog was nothing out of the ordinary.

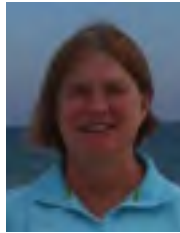
Down syndrome stems from a genetic abnormality in which an extra copy of the 21st chromosome is produced. The condition affects more than 400,000 people in the U.S. and can be marked by cognitive delays, intellectual disabilities and increased risk of other medical conditions. Many of those afflicted with Down complete school and hold jobs, often with the help and support of family and friends.

Tragically more than 90% of babies diagnosed before birth are aborted.

South Australia's Kill Bill

The Keys euthanasia bill has raised its ugly head once more in the S.A. Legislative Assembly. You must act to contact your M.P.s by mail, phone, or in person to tell them you want patient care not patient killing. (see enclosed lobby notes for S.A. members).

Update from the U.S.



As I am writing this, Illinois voters are preparing to go to the polls. I am visiting relatives in Chicago, and have been subjected to a constant barrage of Pro-Romney Commercials (every commercial break, literally) and none for Santorum or Gingrich. Most of the ads are coming from the Restore America Super Pac. These political action committees are legal so

long as they do not communicate with the campaign. (The Supreme Court threw out the clause of the McCain Feingold election 'reform' law which limited organizations from running most types of political ads close to an election).

The conventional wisdom is that Mr. Romney will grind out a victory, eventually getting the 1144 delegates he needs. Counting Puerto Rico he has 521 delegates to date. Because of proportional representation and a win in Hawaii, even though Mr. Santorum won Mississippi and Alabama Mr Romney came out ahead for the evening last week. Mr. Romney's argument relies on two claims: first, that his nomination is inevitable and continuing the nomination battle would damage the party's chances in November, and second that he has the best chance of defeating Mr. Obama.

Mr. Santorum is polling at around 31% in Illinois to Mr. Romney's 38%. Mr. Santorum tends to under poll, so he may do better than expected. One problem for Mr. Santorum is that his name will not appear on the ballot in four of eighteen congressional districts in Illinois due to the fact that he had limited resources at the time of filing deadline and did not have a sufficient number of signatures on petitions in those districts. On the plus side for Mr. Santorum, delegates are awarded by congressional district in Illinois, so if Mr. Romney carries the districts around Chicago with a large margin, it won't affect the number of delegates Mr. Santorum receives in other parts of the state. Mr. Santorum will do well in Louisiana on Saturday. A win in Ohio would have given Mr. Santorum additional delegates, plus some much needed momentum. (As you may remember he lost Ohio by 12,000 votes out of a million cast).

The likelihood is for a continuing fight, whatever the Illinois result. A brokered convention is possible, but I think unlikely. Most of the pro-Santorum states remaining are not 'winner take all', so Mr. Romney will get a sizeable chunk of delegates from even those states Mr. Santorum wins (which will likely include Louisiana, Pennsylvania and possibly Texas). Still, this is a strange year, so the politicians are being cautious, in not declaring the inevitability of a Romney nomination. Meanwhile Mr. Obama's poll numbers are not great for him (gas prices are sky high), and we are hearing the slogan, 'Welcome Back Carter'.

Kate Edgeworth

U.S. Correspondent

Ed Note: Mr. Santorum won Louisiana on 24th March, 2012. The Age 26/3/12 reported that "Lisa Graas, an anti-abortion campaigner, said her support was for Mr. Santorum alone. She is the voter that keeps the Republicans awake at night – the one who never supports US President Barack Obama, but would not turn up at all for Mr. Romney."



Massive pro-life banner greets Australian legislators for 70 days parliament in session

By Jason Rushton, Wednesday March 14, 2012.

MELBOURNE, March 14, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com) - A peaceful protest by the Helpers of God's Precious Infants has begun at the entrance to the car-park of the parliament where three years ago Australia's most radical abortion laws were introduced.

On each of the 70 sitting days of Victoria's parliament this year, pro-life protesters will display a green six-foot-high banner marked with one white cross for every baby aborted since the first of January, 2012.

The unmissable banner, which due to local council regulations must be carried by volunteers at all times, will stretch along the green hedge/fence at the back of parliament house beside the car-park entrance.

"The politicians are going to have to drive past this every time they come to work for all of this year," said David Forster, the protest organiser. "They're going to see that banner get longer and longer and longer. Every month when they come in, there will be another 2,000 white crosses added on to it."

Bernie Finn MLC, a member of the upper house of Victorian parliament, said that there has been a noticeable reaction inside parliament house to the protest. "There's been two reactions here basically," he said. "One from the pro-aborts and one from the pro-lifers: The pro-aborts are trying desperately to ignore the protest, the pro-lifers are having their priorities pricked, and being reminded that they should be doing a lot more about this issue."

The 2008 Abortion Law Reform Act legalized abortion in Victoria up to birth. Doctors may perform abortions up to 24 weeks gestation without any limits. After 24 weeks, the medical practitioner must consult one other doctor.

Maryse Usher has been participating in the protest. "Each white cross represents a murdered child," she said.

To help contact Dave Forster - Tel 9360 4921

email: m_dforster@yahoo.com.au or 0409 954 623

Queensland Elections – The Good News

RTLA advertised in the Brisbane Courier Mail for voters to place the Emilys List candidates last. Except for two, they lost their seats or were not elected. Desley Scott retained her seat - with a margin of 25.4%, she had a 22.8% swing against her. Anna Bligh retained her seat - with a margin of 15%, she had a swing of 9.5% against her. The average swing was 16%. In the two electorates we letterboxed, Karen Struthers in Algester had a 19% swing against her and Barbara Stone in Springwood had a swing against her of 19.5%. Thanks to all our Queensland workers, especially the campaign Co-ordinator, Graham Preston.

ADVERTISEMENT

Queensland Election

ABORTION THE ISSUE

**Do Queenslanders want Abortion Legal until Birth?
(As in Victoria since 2008)**

The ALP candidates listed below, because they are members of Emilys List, are committed to vote in parliament for legal abortion without restrictions.

www.emilyslist.org.au

Anna Bligh – South Brisbane

Jo Briskey – Cleveland

Virginia Clarke – Nanango

Jan Jarratt – Whitsunday

Mandy Johnstone – Townsville

Rachel Nolan – Ipswich

Mary-Anne O'Neill – Kallangur

Desley Scott – Woodridge

Christine Smith – Burleigh

Barbara Stone – Springwood

Karen Struthers – Algester

Angela Zyla – Burdekin

VOTE THEM LAST

EVERY ABORTION KILLS A BABY

Authorised by G Preston for Right to Life Australia Inc. 22 Rigby St, Annerley, Qld 4103

Youth For Life



Outside Royal Women's Hospital on 24/3/12 by Stephanie Ross

On the 18th of December 2011 a small group of dedicated pro-life youth came together to make preparations for the first Youth for Life event in February 2012. The afternoon kicked off with a friendly lunch during which the participants shared their ideas and then sorted through resources and equipment previously used in pro-life events, rallies and fundraisers.

The meeting concluded leaving the members revved up and excited in anticipation for a BIG year in 2012 and with high hopes of reducing the current death toll for the unborn.

If you are interested in getting involved, Youth for Life is open to anyone between the ages of 14 – 35 no matter their faith, gender or nationality. All that is necessary is a passion to be active in fighting for the rights of the unborn.

Youth for Life held their first peaceful protest outside the Royal Women's Hospital on Saturday March 24th. The Royal Women's carries out many abortions and terminates the lives of many unborn babies diagnosed with a disability.

Care to Join Youth for Life? Please contact Stephanie – 0450 043 382 or Veronica – 0466 526 412.

Witness at Croydon abortion facility

A small group of pro-lifers still witness regularly at the Croydon abortion facility. We are present every Tuesday and Thursday morning at 411 Dorset Rd Croydon to offer assistance to girls and women entering the facility. It is nearly 14 years since the opening of the "day procedure centre" now operating under the name of "Dr. Marie". As well as abortions many anti-life practices are taking place on the premises. We pray for all those entering the facility and for those involved in the destruction of the tiny and not so tiny humans. We would welcome any newcomers to our small group. I can be reached on 9728 2168 or 0419 540 323 if you would like to join us or have any queries.



We pray for all those entering the facility and for those involved in the destruction of the tiny and not so tiny humans. We would welcome any newcomers to our small group. I can be reached on 9728 2168 or 0419 540 323 if you would like to join us or have any queries.

God bless,
Anne O'Dwyer

After- birth abortion – Why should the baby live?

by Dr. Katrina Haller LLB

Alarm spread with publication of a paper in the Journal of Medical Ethics by Dr. Francesca Minerva and Alberto Giubilini, of the Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics at the University of Melbourne, on 23 February 2012. They argue that what they call "after-birth abortion" (killing a newborn) should be permissible in all the cases where abortion is, including cases where the newborn is not disabled." This is because the "moral status of the individual killed is comparable with that of a fetus"

"Both a fetus and a newborn are human beings and potential persons, but neither is a 'person' in the sense of 'subject of a moral right to life.' We take 'person' to mean an individual who is capable of attributing to her own existence some (at least) basic value such as being deprived of this existence represents a loss to her," They argue, "This means that many non-human animals and mentally retarded individuals are persons."

The proposed new term, "after-birth abortion" is a smoke and mirrors attempt to soften us up to accept infanticide. We are instinctively repulsed by the picture of killing an infant. So calling it "after-birth abortion" incorporates the alleged acceptance of abortion and extends it to after birth. However, while birth is merely a change of residence, after birth, the baby may be adopted or placed into foster care.

They define a "person" as one who values their life and then merely assert that newborn babies do not value their life, but that animals do. So an animal can be defined by them as a 'person.' However, we distinguish human beings from animals and give them a higher status. These academics are proposing that human babies are not "persons." They fail to specify a time when they allege that a child or adult "becomes" a person. They have failed to provide any evidence that a baby does not or could not know that depriving her of her life would be a loss to her.

Right to Life Australia campaigns to achieve the human right to life of all members of the human family from conception until natural death, whether or not they have a disability. As Dr Seuss says, in his book , "Horton Hears A Who, "

"A person is a person no matter how small."

The authors state, "however weak the interests of actual people can be, they will always trump the alleged interest of potential people to become actual ones."

We know that the mother's interests trump the very lives of their unborn children in Victoria and now they are trying to extend this to newborn babies. In Victoria a mother does not need a reason to abort her child up until birth, and these authors are arguing that they should be able to kill the child after birth as well. It is abhorrent.

Paper: www.jme.bmj.com/content/early/2012/03/01/medethics-2011-100411.short

Correspondence to : francesca.mineva@unimelb.edu.au

The editor of the Journal, Professor Julian Savulescu, Oxford professor, formerly of Monash University, pointed out that promoting the killing of newborns is nothing new, in fact, in the Netherlands infant euthanasia is already legal and practised. It occurs under the Groningen Protocol, which outlines the circumstances under which a physician may deliver a lethal injection to a newborn who suffers from a disability, at the request of the child's parents.

DEATH THREATS

Ninemsn reported on 1 March 2012 that Dr Minerva had received death threats. The Right to Life Australia deny they have made any death threats, because they try to protect human life at all stages of development. It is ironic, because the authors of this article are the ones who are promoting death and threatening the lives of babies. It is a criminal offence to threaten to kill someone. This is a poisonous idea, not new, lacking hope, and lacking consideration of others rather than self-interest. It belongs to an era which is thankfully over. Let's put the lid on it once and for all.

Your Death can bring Life to others

We invite you to share our vision for a community where every human life is respected, from conception until natural death, regardless of age, place of residence, gender or disability.

Through a bequest to The Right to Life Australia, you can give the gift of life to the most vulnerable and defenceless of our human family. Your generosity will make a difference to the pregnant mothers who call for counselling. Euthanasia is also just around the corner and we will need to fight to extend good palliative care instead of killing. We are opposing human embryo experimentation so that the exceptionalism of human beings is respected and protected. You can be a practical part of this vision.

BEQUEST wording

I bequeath to The Right to Life Australia the sum of \$xxxxx
OR

I give, devise and bequeath xx% of my real and personal estate to
The Right to Life Australia

On behalf of all our members who have so generously supported,
thank you.



Unborn Victims of Violence

From [Perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/...](http://Perthnow.com.au/news/western-australia/)

West Australian Attorney-General, Christian Porter (left), has proposed a "Foetal homicide" law based on the Queensland law. This would make it an offence to cause the death or grievous bodily harm to an unborn child through an unlawful assault on a pregnant woman. The maximum penalty would be life imprisonment.

Dangerous driving causing the death of an unborn child, would become an offence, with a maximum penalty being 20 years.

The President of the Western Australian branch of the Australian Medical Association supports the proposed legislation. He expressed a desire to extend it to "*criminal penalties for cases where homebirth or drug or alcohol consumption by pregnant women can harm a baby.*"

Chapter 28, sect. 313 of the Queensland Criminal code provides:

313 Killing unborn child

(1) Any person who, when a female is about to be delivered of a child, prevents the child from being born alive by any act or omission of such nature that, if the child had been born alive and had then died, the person would be deemed to have unlawfully killed the child, is guilty of a crime, and is liable to imprisonment for life.

(2) Any person who unlawfully assaults a female pregnant with a child and destroys the life of, or does grievous bodily harm to, or transmits a serious disease to, the child before its birth, commits a crime.

Maximum penalty – imprisonment for life.

Mr Porter's action follows a case where a man with a history of domestic violence, Matthew Silvestro, drove his car into an oncoming vehicle, causing his eight-month pregnant partner to miscarry. He was fined \$8000 and banned from driving for two years. His former partner, Vanessa De Bari, was upset and said she had lost her baby and Mr Silvestro had to be punished. We welcome such a law, as this will recognise the unborn child as a human life. The Queensland law is stronger than the New South Wales law and we want a law, based on the Queensland law, in the other states of Australia.

Jaby writes, "In 1999 my unborn baby son Seamus died due to a car accident when my seatbelt locked across my abdomen as my head hit the windscreen. The driver of the other car is not legally liable for my baby's death. Abortion activist Leslie Cannold is anti-woman as she does not acknowledge the violence to mothers assaulted while pregnant, or whose baby dies in a car accident due to a driver's negligence. No charges can be laid in respect of his death. If a law such as that proposed in WA was in force in Victoria then I could at least feel that justice had been done, his life would have been recognised and that he mattered."

If we're all victims, who's responsible?

by Mishka Gora

When I hear the words "abortion victim", I think of babies in the womb who were killed before they had a chance to be held in their mothers' arms, and when I hear the words "abortion survivor" I think of people like Gianna Jessen and Melissa Ohden who lived despite the deliberate attempt to kill them in the womb. I have noticed, however, that more and more people are using these terms to describe the mothers in such cases, the women who procured abortions, the women who were ultimately responsible for the deaths of their children.

This is a dangerous path for those of us who strive to make moral evaluations while exercising compassion, for it muddles the distinction between responsibility and culpability and (taken to its logical conclusion) ultimately denies that a crime has even been perpetrated. It attempts to justify the unjustifiable, transforming understanding into exculpation and mitigation into vindication.

Women are moral agents, and any attempt to avoid responsibility for our actions denies this fundamental aspect of our humanity. The reasons why women have abortions are undoubtedly complex, and they may include mitigating circumstances that diminish culpability (sometimes completely), but none of this can alter the fact that it is the mothers who are responsible for aborting their children. Abortion is the deliberate removal of a child from the womb with the aim of depriving it of its life. The intent is not to cause the mother any harm, and she is not the victim. This is not to deny that there may be repercussions for the mother, appalling repercussions in fact, but those repercussions are not why abortion is wrong, and none of those repercussions alter the fact that the mother is usually the perpetrator. In some places, like China, mothers are literally forced to have abortions – they are not perpetrators and they are in no way culpable – but even then they are not victims of abortion; they are victims of assault and grievous bodily harm. An abortion victim is the dead baby, not the mother who allowed it to be killed, usually voluntarily.

We likewise deceive ourselves if we think we are doing women a favour by validating the explanations they give for abortion. When we make victims of them by emphasising the harm they have experienced, we shift responsibility, making abortion more of an accident from which both mother and child have suffered, instead of an act of homicide in which the victim is dead. Women who choose abortion may be victims, but they are not abortion victims, they are victims of faulty thought processes by which they justify murder. If we validate these thought patterns, we not only skirt extremely close to absolving the criminality of abortion, but also make it more difficult for women to reject these warped and noxious ways of thinking. When we agree that such women didn't have "real choices" we take away their responsibility,

deny they are perpetrators, and lose sight of the fundamental truth that abortion is wrong purely because it is the unjustified taking of a human life.

Lack of "real choices" is no justification for the taking of a human life. If we campaign for more "choices" for women contemplating abortion, we legitimise murder as an option. If we cite inadequate support for mothers as a basis for opposing abortion, instead of declaring the incontrovertible wrongness of killing the unborn, we make abortion just one of many options instead of an atrocity. It should never be an option, and the more we discuss abortion in terms of "real choices" the less we will be able to see the absurdity of the statement "I had no choice but to kill my own child."

We must love others, even murderers, but we should never allow ourselves to be blinded by love. The only real abortion victims are dead, and we owe it to the perpetrators as well as the victims to recognise this. We should never be ashamed of the truth.

Mishka Gora is a Tasmanian Philosopher.



Mary Collier, Jan and Mike Kronberg and Katrina Haller

Dinner with Jan Kronberg M.L.C. Victorian Parliament

At a dinner held at The Whitehorse Club in Melbourne on Saturday 17th March, Mrs Kronberg stressed the need for us to visit our representatives and said that, as nothing will happen without a groundswell of concerned people. We forget how horrible abortion is. Recently there was alarm at the pain felt by slaughtered animals, but what about the pain felt by unborn children when they are being torn apart, limb by limb during an abortion? Some representatives in Parliament want to do something about abortion but they need to know that they have the support of their constituents. - So please heed her advice and make that appointment, send that email and write that letter. Do not be put off by standard stock replies. Respond and ask your questions again. We need a grassroots campaign if we are ever going to get pro-life legislation through this Parliament.

Lobbying your M.P. – Your Right and Your Duty

In Victoria, since the passage of the Brumby government's infamous Abortion Law Reform Act 2008 there has been an increase in the carrying out of late term abortions – which are now allowed up till birth (See page 2 of the enclosed lobbying notes for Victorians).

In other words no child in the womb is safe from the abortionist – whether he be an operator at one of the States many abortion clinics or a prominent gynaecologist at one of our leading public hospitals – sometimes a doctor who teaches medical students at our universities.

Having reached rock bottom we must now begin the difficult task of convincing our elected representatives to start taking steps to restore basic human rights to the most vulnerable human beings still in their mother's womb.

If you live in Victoria please read the enclosed lobbying notes and decide to act on them.

DO NOT be afraid to seek an appointment with your members of parliament.

We are represented by MP's in our State parliaments, who are directly responsible for abortion laws. With the exception of Queensland, all other States have an upper and a lower house. The two territories – Northern and Australian Capital Territories have one legislative house only.

The federal parliament's role in Australia's abortion holocaust is massive. The killing of Australia's unborn is funded by use of healthcare monies, your taxes that should properly be spent on providing good healthcare for all.

Both major parties have supported, during their times in office, the misuse of healthcare monies in funding Australia's abortions. Although Victoria and the A.C.T. have so far been the only States that have removed all restrictions on abortion – up till birth – abortion is freely available in the other States through unenforced laws.

If we remain silent in the face of this brutal denial of human rights surely we are telling our fellow Australians that this current slaughter of the innocent is alright.

So don't delay – act today!

Margaret Tighe

Pregnancy Counselling Australia News

Retirement of two P.C.A. stalwarts shown here receiving a bouquet at the last Right to Life Australia Committee meeting.

Sheila Wells who has been coordinator of Pregnancy Counselling Australia for 12 years, has recently retired with regret.

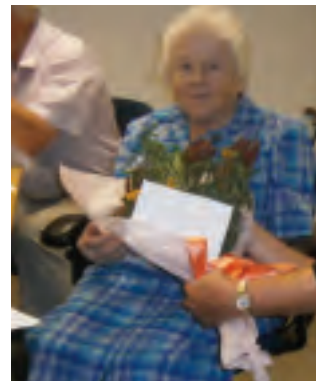
During that time Sheila played a major role in the training of telephone counsellors and the organising of on-going training of counsellors, as well as spending many long hours on the phone dealing with callers.

There is no doubt that there are many babies alive and their mothers grateful – thanks to Sheila's great work.

We wish Sheila well in her retirement.

Sister Margaret Kane another P.C.A. stalwart who has been doing the thankless and very important task of looking after the volunteer roster. A member of the Good Shepherd Sisters, she has been so very hard working and reliable in this task for many years and we do wish to say a very big thank you Sister Margaret and hope and pray that she is not too worn out so as to be able to enjoy her retirement.

P.S. She is the organiser of the Silver Circle as well and plans to continue with this.



SILVER CIRCLE - A PREGNANCY COUNSELLING AUSTRALIA FUNDRAISER

Results	January
(No.162)	\$100 1st Mr Jack Ashton Nunawading, VIC
(No. 51)	\$40 2nd Sr Claire Flanigan – Abbotsford, VIC

	February
(No. 23)	\$100 1st Ms Mary Hart – Kyneton, VIC
(No. 15)	\$40 2nd Mr Thom Hoey – Watsonia, VIC

Want to Join? \$24 per annum
Phone (03) 9416 1686 or 0417 096 377
mkanergs@goodshp.com.au

Payments to Pregnancy Counselling Australia
19/7 Clarke Street, Abbotsford, Vic., 3067



Pregnancy Counselling Australia Dinner

Hear Adelaide G.P. Dr Toni Turnbull speak of her years of experience with women seeking abortion.

**When? Saturday 28th April,
7.00 pm for 7.30 pm dinner.**

**Where? Aurora Receptions, 149 Donald Street,
East Brunswick Vic 3057**

Details – See enclosed flier



United States

Obama Killing Women's Health Program to Fund Planned Parenthood.

[LifeNews.com.]

The Obama Administration is showing its loyalties. And it is not to women. It is to Planned Parenthood.

As More Planned Parenthood Centers Close, Abortions Decline

Karen Hildebrand, the CEO of Planned Parenthood of West Texas, claimed that "we are gonna see an increase in abortion rates" upon the closing of a Planned Parenthood facility in Odessa, Texas.

Setting the Record Straight on Ultrasounds and Abortion

The media has grossly misrepresented the Women's Right to Know Act (House Bill 1077) in Pennsylvania. When a woman faces a decision as grave and irrevocable as abortion, she deserves to have the full range of information relating to her pregnancy and her unborn child ahead of time.

Record number of pro-life laws passed by states in 2011

By Michael News Mon Jan 09 2012. (LifeSiteNews.com) – Last week, the Washington Post's Workblog posted a story by Sarah Kliff about the success that pro-lifers enjoyed enacting incremental state-level laws this past year. The Guttmacher Institute reports that 83 pro-life laws were passed in 2011, more than double the previous record of 34, enacted in 2005, and more than triple the 23 enacted in 2010.

Kliff attributes this increase in pro-life laws to the political gains that Republicans made during the 2010 election. While there is certainly some truth to this, there are a number of long term trends that escape Kliff's attention. First, since the mid-1990s, the Republican party has become a more uniformly pro-life party, so when Republicans possess unified control of government, they face fewer internal obstacles to the passage of pro-life laws.

Also, many recent Republican political victories have occurred in Southern and Midwestern states where Democrats have historically controlled the state legislatures, and newly elected Republican majorities have succeeded in passing pro-life laws in a number of these states, including Alabama and Michigan.

Nigeria Forced Abortion

A 25-year-old Nigerian man was brought before the Chief Magistrates' Court in Abuja, Nigeria on Monday to face charges for conspiracy and for performing a forced abortion on his girlfriend.

United Kingdom

The Archbishop of Canterbury warns of 'disaster' if assisted suicide is legalised.

Earlier this month, Rowan Williams has commented that any change in the law on assisted suicide would be a disaster. He said, "To say that there are certain conditions in which life is legally declared to be not worth living is a major shift in the moral and spiritual atmosphere in which we live." Members of the General Synod overwhelmingly rejected recommendations of the Falconer Report by 284

House of Lords debate clarifies distinction between law and DPP prosecution policy.

A debate in the House of Lords with 30 peers saw the Government block attempts from the pro-euthanasia lobby to fetter the DPP more clearly. Lord Wallace made it clear that the Government intends to let the DPP get on with his job without interfering.

British court rules Catholic midwives can be forced to participate in abortions

BY JOHN-HENRY WESTEN

EDINBURGH, U.K., February 29, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com) - Judgment was handed down today in the case of two senior midwives from Glasgow who have a conscientious objection to abortion. The midwives have been told that they must accept the decision of their hospital management that they must oversee other midwives performing abortions on the labour ward.

Lady Smith, judge in the Court of Session in Edinburgh, ruled that the senior midwives' role is not covered by the conscience clause in the Abortion Act.

Both the midwives have served for over 20 years at the Southern General Hospital, caring for many thousands of mothers and babies. The case arose when the hospital demanded that all senior midwives must take responsibility for overseeing mid-term and late term abortions. Since 2008 the hospital has insisted that these abortions, mostly for suspected disability in the foetus, must be conducted on the labour ward, rather than the gynaecology ward where most early abortions are performed.

Lady Smith ruled that the 1967 abortion act only granted qualified conscience protections in relation to abortion. "The nature of their duties does not in fact require them to provide treatment to terminate pregnancies directly," she said. "They are sufficiently removed from direct involvement as, it seems to me, to afford appropriate respect for and accommodation of their beliefs."

Addison criticized "the extremely restrictive interpretation the judge has put on the Conscientious Objection clause in s4 of the

Abortion Act." The interpretation, he said, is such that "believing Catholics, Muslims and others will never be able to take any form of supervisory or management role as midwives or nurses unless they are prepared to be complicit in the provision of abortions."

Russia

Russia defunds late-term 'social abortions' as country moves to curtail high abortion rate

BY MATTHEW CULLINAN HOFFMAN

February 28, 2012 (LifeSiteNews.com) - The Russian government has cut off funding for most late-term abortions that are done for "social" reasons, in a move that may signal more restrictions to come.

Previously, Russians could receive government-funded abortions after the first twelve weeks of pregnancy in cases of rape, when a woman had been deprived of parental rights by a court, imprisonment of the woman, or death or disability of her husband.

The only "social" condition that now remains is rape, according to Russian media sources. Women may also still obtain late-term abortions if they suffer from a life-threatening illness during the pregnancy.

Although the rule applies only to government-provided abortions, it represents another step towards restrictions on abortion that have long been sought by the current government.

In July of last year, Russian President Dmitri Medvedev signed a law requiring all abortion providers to commit 10% of their advertising to increasing awareness about the adverse health risks of abortion, which include cancer, deadly hemorrhages, and sterility. The same law prohibits abortionists from making the claim that abortion is a safe medical procedure.

Since that time, pro-life forces in Russia have pushed for greater restrictions. Legislation has been in process since mid-2011 to prohibit almost all abortions after the first trimester, require a waiting period of one week, and require women over six weeks pregnant to see an ultrasound of their unborn child before aborting.

Apology

We apologize for the lateness of our last newsletter, which was held up while discussions were held about one of the articles, after the Newsletter was printed but before it was posted. This delayed the projected timeline and unfortunately the Mail Centre could not abridge the time taken to have the Newsletter sent out.