

Questions on notice

Senator Stott Despoja: To ask the to the Minister Assisting the Prime Minister for Women's Issues, Senator the Hon Kay Patterson:

1. Can the Government provide figures for the amount of funding provided to pregnancy counselling services in 2003-04, including direct and indirect funding? Please provide a breakdown of funding by organisation.
2. Can the Government provide figures for the amount of funding which will be allocated to pregnancy counselling services in the 2004-05 Budget, including direct and indirect funding? Please provide a breakdown of funding by organisation.
3. Does the Government have any information regarding which of these fully or partially publicly-funded pregnancy counselling services are “pro-life” and “pro-choice”?
4. Is the Government aware of instances where “pro-life” organisations have purported to provide independent pregnancy counselling through emergency telephone listings?
5. If so, does the Government approve of this practice?
6. If the Government is aware of this practice but does not approve of it, will the Government take action to ensure that organisations which do have such a bias are not represented as independent, through their name or otherwise?

Natasha Stott Despoja
Senator for South Australia
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