

PETITION

Regulate pregnancy counselling now

To the Honourable the President and Members of the Senate in Parliament assembled.

The Petition of the undersigned draws to the attention of the Senate the lack of regulation of pregnancy counselling in Australia.

Pregnancy counselling services which do not charge for the information they provide are not subject to the Trade Practices Act, which means they are not prohibited from engaging in misleading or deceptive advertising.

Some services have been known to give the impression in their advertising material that they are non-directive and provide information on all three pregnancy options (keeping the child, termination, and adoption), when in fact they are anti-choice. They have also been known to provide misleading information about the risks associated with terminating a pregnancy.

Your petitioners believe:

- a) Misleading information provided by some anti-choice pregnancy counselling services has caused distress for many women;
- b) Women have the right to know what sort of pregnancy counselling service they are contacting (ie anti-choice or non-directive) when they seek information about whether or not to continue a pregnancy;
- c) The Federal Government should urgently move to regulate pregnancy counselling in Australia to ensure the counselling provided is objective, non-directive, and includes information on all three pregnancy options, by supporting Senator Natasha Stott Despoja's Private Member's Bill to regulate pregnancy counselling or similar legislation.

Your petitioners request the Senate urge the Government to regulate pregnancy counselling in Australia (including banning misleading and deceptive advertising).

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Please return this petition to:
Senator Natasha Stott Despoja, Democrats' Status of Women Spokesperson
PO Box 3419, Rundle Mall SA 5000