



# ACT Right to Life Association

September 2016



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## Dear Members,

There is no sabbatical for the Pro-life Cause. The attacks come thick and fast. Marie Stopes International which runs the Canberra abortion clinic, have had some services suspended in Great Britain for failing to meet required standards. See article in this issue about the UK developments and the woman who is suing the Canberra clinic.

Over three hundred signatures on our Freedom of Speech Petition were handed in at the Legislative Assembly to Liberal Member, Andrew Wall for presentation at the end of August. More signed petition forms are arriving – if you have any more signatures please send them in to our post Office box. I am grateful to the many members who signed the petition and especially to those who gathered signatures at the various churches and homes.

Would you be able to come to pray at a public venue outside the exclusion zone – a legal public busy spot – during the lunch hour 12 – 1pm on some Wednesdays please contact me. (62812365) It has been suggested that a group of people pray fortnightly or monthly, whatever is possible, with some appropriate signs (PRAY TO END ABORTION)

Many of the candidates for the Legislative Assembly are busy campaigning at shopping centres prior to the October Election. It is an opportunity to question their views on abortion

and euthanasia. I was happy to meet with some recently and to find his views on the Exclusion Zone – limiting our Freedom of Speech- and other life issues to be excellent. From their speeches in relation to the Exclusion Zone debates, the Liberals are NOT in favour of exclusion zones and the right of Freedom to Speech. I was disappointed that no division was called when the final vote was taken so that our real friends could be identified. Please feel free to phone in the lead up to the 15 October election if you are unsure of the pro-life candidates (62812365).

May God bless you all,  
Bev. Cains President.



**Andrew Wall MLA receiving Freedom of Speech petitions from RTL President Mrs Bev. Cains**

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## EUTHANASIA IS MURDER

**A**ssisted suicide or euthanasia is currently legal in Albania, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, Japan, Switzerland, and the Netherlands. In America, assisted suicide is legal in California, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Washington, and Vermont. We must fight to keep it out of the ACT and Australia.

The Netherlands began looking the other way in the 1970s when it came to euthanasia and finally made it officially legal in 2002. In 2013 — just 11 years later — it's estimated they euthanized 650 babies. In about two decades, this country (The Netherlands) progressed from so-called "assisted suicide" to euthanasia. They went from killing the terminally ill to those suffering from chronic diseases and psychological afflictions. Half the deaths aren't even reported and about a quarter are done without the patient's consent!

Belgium's so-called tightly defined parameters weren't worth the paper they were printed on. The nation legalized euthanasia in 2002

and 12 years later they too began to euthanize infants and babies. Now it is legal to kill anyone who's simply "tired of life." If someone is lonely, say the officials, "we cannot create a family," euthanasia is the answer. Belgium has the second-highest suicide rate (nonrelated to euthanasia) in Western Europe.

The euthanasia laws of Oregon in 1997 and Washington State in 2009 are nearly identical to Belgium and contain ineffectual safeguards. In Oregon, someone else putting the drug into the patient's mouth or injecting it still constitutes as "self-administered." Further, an heir is allowed to speak for the patient, inviting coercion. There are safeguards for those involved with this lethal process, but not so much for the patients. There is no true accountability.

In California, a wealthy patient's heir can help sign the patient up for euthanasia. Once the lethal medication is in the home, no accountability or witness is required. It could be forced on the targeted person. The law also keeps

the details of death confidential so they can't be used to prosecute a doctor or other person who abuses the process. The year their euthanasia law was passed, the Oregon Medical Assistance Program (OMAP) terminated funding for 167 of its services. When the law was enacted four years later, the OMAP listed the lethal drugs as "comfort care" and slashed Medicaid funding for over 150 services essential for those with disabilities, terminal illnesses, and the elderly. Then the agency attempted but failed to curtail funding for an effective pain medication and established barriers to funding for an anti-depressant.

Don't fall for the lie that euthanasia (and so-called "assisted suicide") laws empower people to make independent choices. Don't think these laws only affect the people who sign up. Quite the opposite is true. You and those you love could fall victim to involuntary euthanasia. Help us get the word out.

*With permission from the Life Issues Institute.*

*David states in Psalm 139:*

*"For you created my inmost being, you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, because I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Your works are wonderful, I know that full well. My frame was not hidden from you when I was made in the secret place. When I was woven together in the depths of the earth, your eyes saw my unformed body. All the days ordained for me were written in your book before one of them came to be."*

*If someone is lonely, say the officials, "we cannot create a family," so euthanasia is the answer.*

# Demand for Children

## Worldwide

So much has been written about the global need to curb births and the unmet demand for contraception. However, the August 27 2016, edition of *The Economist* reports that the main problem facing couples is the unmet demand for children. The *Economist* surveyed 19 countries, asking people how many children they wanted and how many they expected to have. The results were astonishing.

“For more and more couples, the greatest source of anguish is that they have fewer children than they want, or none at all.... In every rich country we surveyed, couples expect to be less fertile than they would like, and many in developing countries suffer the same sorrow.... “The pain of having no or fewer children than you desire is often extreme. It can cause depression and in poor countries can be a social catastrophe. Couples impoverish themselves pursuing ineffective treatments; women who are thought to be barren are divorced, ostracised or worse.

It is hoped that executives at Marie Stopes International, the United Nations Population Fund and all the other global agencies dedicated to shrinking family sizes read *The Economist’s* advice: “Governments and aid agencies have turned family planning into a wholly one-sided campaign, dedicated to minimising teenage pregnancies and unwanted births; it has come to mean family restriction. Instead, family planning ought to mean helping people to have as many children as they want.”

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF  
THE ACT RIGHT TO LIFE  
ASSOCIATION WILL BE HELD AT  
HOLY TRINITY  
PARISH CENTRE,  
STRANGWAYS STREET, CURTIN,  
ON SUNDAY  
30 OCTOBER AT 2PM.  
ALL WELCOME.**

# IVF in the Midst

Many people do not see anything wrong with In Vitro Fertilisation. After all, it is intended to enable a woman to have a baby and what could be wrong with that? They turn a blind eye to the destruction of “surplus” embryos, either during the process or during so-called “research” activities, or their indefinite storage with the likelihood of destruction when they are deemed to be of no further use.

IVF is a significant commercial undertaking in Australia. The company (Virtus Health) that now owns Canberra’s Fertility Centre in Deakin made a net profit of \$32.9 million in the twelve months to June. Virtus Health bought the Canberra facility for \$3.5 million in May this year from former owner and scientific director Dr Chris Copeland.

In a statement to the Stock Exchange Virtus stated that it was the largest network and provider of fertility services in Australia and Ireland with a growing presence in Singapore.

When announcing the purchase the Canberra Times noted that the Canberra Fertility Centre had recently campaigned for IVF centres to be able to offer paid surrogacy as an option and for a ban on advertising for surrogates to be lifted. They also intend to urge for sex selection for “family balance”.

Talk about “pushing the envelope”. The Centre is clearly an ideological advocacy group and not just a medical facility. Paid surrogacy has tarnished the reputations of many Asian countries, some of whom have banned the practice following media exposes. The “baby Gammy” case, involving a Thai surrogate woman in 2014 and a W.A. couple, revealed the dark side of IVF and surrogacy. The suggestion was that the couple returned to Australia with one baby and left its twin, with Downs Syndrome, back in Thailand.

Unfortunately, the drive for “family balance” has wreaked havoc on the balance of the sexes in China and India, so much so that there are areas in both countries where men are unable to link with women of marriageable age because many parents decided that giving birth to girls was too much of a burden. The Canberra Fertility Centre is located in the Peter York building adjacent to the Calvary John James Hospital in Deakin. Both the hospital and the Fertility Centre are tenants of the John James Foundation. The two buildings are separated by a rose garden but to many outsiders they appear to be one and the same campus.



# Are Dr Marie Abortion Clinics Properly Inspected Before Being Accredited?

*“... in July this year the Canberra Times reported that a woman was suing the abortion clinic and one of its doctors for breach of care.”*

In response to the 2015 Freedom of Information inquiry lodged by ACT Right to Life with the ACT Health the Government did not provide information in response to questions about what happens in the abortion clinic run by Marie Stopes International in the Department's own building. Instead, they claimed that it had been approved to function as a medical facility just like any dental or general practice. However, in July this year the Canberra Times reported that a woman was suing the abortion clinic and one of its doctors for breach of care. In her case the 32 year old woman had approached the clinic in 2013 and was diagnosed with a normal pregnancy and given abortion drugs.

The woman did not have a normal pregnancy but had an ectopic pregnancy in her fallopian tube which later ruptured after she was admitted to hospital. Abortion drugs are ineffective in ectopic pregnancies.

This experience contrasts with the glowing description of its role that the clinic uses: “Dr Marie offers immediate, safe and compassionate pregnancy termination services. Depending on how far pregnant you are, you can choose between either a surgical abortion or a medical abortion. Our team can answer any questions you may have, and we are happy to discuss these options with you.”

Marie Stopes International states on its website: “Our

Australian centres are known as ‘Dr Marie’ centres. They offer a full range of sexual and reproductive health care, including pregnancy counselling, medical and surgical abortion, contraception, STI testing and treatment, cervical screening and vasectomy through 15 centres throughout Australia.” The number is now 17, not 15, including the Canberra Dr Marie clinic, as it seeks to expand further around Australia.

## UK inspections

In August this year the BBC reported that Marie Stopes International had suspended abortions under general anaesthetic and to those under 18 in the UK, following inspections by healthcare inspectors.

The inspectors were from the “Care Quality Commission”, an independent regulatory body. “We make sure health and social care services provide people with safe, effective, compassionate, high-quality care and we encourage care services to improve.”

It sounds very similar to the Australian Council of Healthcare Standards (ACHS) whose logo the Canberra Dr Marie clinic proudly carries on its website. The ACHS claims it “...is an authorised accreditation agency with the Australian Commission on Safety and Quality in Health Care. The ACHS is authorised to accredit healthcare organisations to the National Safety and Quality Health Services Standards (NSQHSS).”

Has the ACHS ever examined

what goes on in the 17 Dr Marie abortion clinics in Australia, or is it a toothless tiger that relies more on self-regulation than inspections similar to those that the UK body undertakes? Until State and local government authorities take seriously their duties in the oversight of all health facilities (including abortion clinics) that they approve of in their jurisdictions then we are likely to have more cases similar to the woman who is suing the Canberra Dr Marie clinic.

## UK clinics were warned

It has emerged that the UK Dr Marie clinics had “fair warning”. In March the Care Quality Commission made a public announcement: “This week sees the roll-out of a programme of inspections by CQC of independent providers of stand-alone termination of pregnancy services, after having trialled and evaluated a new approach. We aim to have inspected all of these providers by the end of September this year.”

The problem is that State and Territory Governments in Australia have their priorities wrong. Rather than encouraging pro-active inspections by regulatory authorities they are more interested in hounding innocent people who conduct prayer or protest vigils outside abortion clinics.

All candidates in the forthcoming ACT Legislative Assembly elections should be asked if elected they will initiate action to achieve better regulation of Canberra's Dr Marie abortion clinic.