



## Stop Deceiving Australian Women

For immediate release: 18 July 2006

Dr Leslie Cannold and Reproductive Choice Australia's legal counsel, Magda Schaler-Haynes will be giving evidence today to the Australian Senate Community Affairs Committee at 10:45 today.

Dr Cannold and Ms Schaler Haynes will emphasising how important it is for the Bill being considered by the committee, the **Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005**, to become law. The Bill prohibits anti-choice Crisis Pregnancy Centres (CPCs) from engaging in deceptive and misleading advertising. If passed, all pregnancy counseling services that will not provide referrals for termination of pregnancy will have to clearly advertise this fact.

Dr Cannold congratulated the sponsor of the Bill, Senator Natasha Stott-Despoja, for her determined efforts to protect pregnant women from false and misleading advertising. "CPCs deliberately advertise in ways that confuse women about the service they provide. They do not provide accurate information about abortion, and will not refer women for abortion. It is vital that women be informed of this fact before they ring".

"Senator Stott-Despoja's Bill closes a loophole by extending to women experiencing an unplanned pregnancy the basic protections from fraud and deception already offered to most Australian consumers. It is an important extension of consumer protection legislation in this country", said Ms Schaler-Haynes.

The hearings will be held at the St James Court Conference Centre, 12 Batman Street, West Melbourne.

For more information, contact Dr Leslie Cannold on 0417 114 859