



**22 June 2005**

**For Immediate Release**

## **NATIONAL PRO-CHOICE COALITION FORMED**

A nation-wide coalition of women's health organisations and pro-choice groups has emerged to combat recent attacks on women's reproductive rights by conservative federal MPs.

Reproductive Choice Australia has been formed to provide a voice for the 81%+ of Australians who believe in a woman's right to decide when, and under what circumstances, to continue with a pregnancy.

"Reproductive Choice Australia is collectively taking action to protect the existing reproductive rights of women and address the many shortcomings in the law and service delivery in Australia," said Dr Leslie Cannold, ethicist at Melbourne University's Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics.

Reproductive Choice Australia is a coalition of over 20 organisations including Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia, Children By Choice, the Public Health Association of Australia, the Australian Women's Health Network, the Women's Electoral Lobby, and all state based pro-choice coalitions.

"Reproductive Choice Australia believes in supporting women to make the best choices for themselves and their families in the case of an unplanned pregnancy," Margaret Hansford, spokesperson for Sexual Health & Family Planning Australia (SH&FPA), said.

"The issue of an unplanned pregnancy should be addressed by further investigating ways of reducing the need for abortion in the first place. These include increased accessibility of contraceptive options and effective sexual health education," Cait Calcutt, Coordinator of Children By Choice (Qld), said.

(ends)

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### **PRESS CONFERENCE**

Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2005  
Time: 10.30am  
Location: Committee Room 2S3, Parliament House, Canberra  
Note: Key aims of coalition to be outlined

### **LAUNCH OF REPRODUCTIVE CHOICE AUSTRALIA**

Date: Wednesday, 22 June 2005  
Time: 12.30pm  
Location: House of Reps Alcove, Parliament House, Canberra  
Keynote: Wendy McCarthy AO  
Note: Media welcome

**For media enquiries or interviews, contact Carol Berry (M) 0418 968 810**