

*Behold I am with you always; yes, to the end of time.
Matthew t28:20*

National Bioethics Newsletter

Pregnancy Help organizations under threat from Marie Stopes

The abortion industry in Australia is gearing up to silence pregnancy support counsellors and Christian health professionals. The self appointed leader of this movement is Marie Stopes, the biggest abortion business in Australia. This international industry is a 'not for profit' organization which generates a massive income and received massive funding of over \$6million from our Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) in the year ending December 31st 2017. Marie Stopes International Australia (MSIA) introduces its family planning projects into Cambodia, Timor Leste, and Papua New Guinea. It gains the confidence of young pubertal girls in the school classroom environment, to which it appears to have free access, and leads them into its contraception and abortion services.

While excusing their intrusion into young lives as providing sex education and reproductive knowledge (that apparently no one else there can provide), Marie Stopes approach to family planning is disrespectful to women's own choices and to the spirituality which underpins it. Claims of dispelling superstition and ignorance in adolescent school students reflects a boastful disdain for biology curricula in developing countries.

Marie Stopes work in 2018 in Australia, from a generated surplus of \$609K for the 2017 financial year and 67% of income from a DFAT grant, is of concern. Marie Stopes do more than perpetrate lethal violence against children in the womb. Their disdain for the infant they abort is reflected in their disregard for fetal pain with no anaesthetic focus for their fetal victims regardless of gestation. This year Marie Stopes in Australia 'set out to address the issue of reproductive coercion'. They produced a 50 page "Hidden Forces" draft white paper to identify the 'drivers' of 'reproductive coercion'. Using this term over 200 times, the document harps that women in Australia do not have reproductive autonomy. Then comes a series of sinister accusations to persuade us of the agents 'overt and covert' robbing women of their autonomy. MSIA is starting a national campaign about 'reproductive coercion' while 'providing specific knowledge and recommendations on how ..to address it' and targeting pro-life pregnancy services and Christian health workers.



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'I am reminded of your sincere Faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice'





Marie Stopes 'Community Wide Consultation' did not consult pregnancy help organizations

Over 40 organizations were consulted in the formation of this paper - but none of those which have assisted women for generations as they traverse the most difficult times in their lives. Pregnancy counselling services, which offer 24 hour trained counselling services to assist women under pressure with a pregnancy, were ostracized. These services are free unlike those of Marie Stopes in Australia which charges twice the Medicare rebate for its abortion services.

In fact the lucrative abortion provider particularly singles out pregnancy crisis counselling services (3.9) that are sanctioned by faith-based groups as able to inflict 'psychological damage' on women. It is unable to cite any evidence for this. Marie Stopes tendency to make unsubstantiated claims in this document represents lack of respect for evidence-based medicine and opens concern its clinics may be equally neglectful.

The only just response to a person is love; and love means "seeking what is good for another." John Paul II

'Love ... alone can save our world from its bondage to sin, selfishness, greed and indifference to the needs of the less fortunate. That is the love we have come to know in Christ Jesus. It became incarnate in our world through a family..'

Pope Francis closing address to world Meeting of Families 2018

Concerns about Marie Stopes quality overseas

In 2016 the UK Quality Care Commission 'issued four warning notices to Marie Stopes International in response to regulatory breaches around consent, safeguarding, care and treatment and governance'.
<https://www.cqc.org.uk/news/releases/cqc-publishes-inspection-reports-marie-stopes-international>

This followed 273 botched abortions in 2 months and 2,600 serious incidents which included nurses failing to obtain informed consent and doctors 'bulk signing' consent forms.

While Marie Stopes ignores published research evidence of fetal pain and derives income from violence and physical abuse of the unborn child, Pro-Choice America acknowledges fetal pain. Nancy Keenan, president of National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League (NARAL) stated this organization would not oppose the Unborn Child Pain Awareness Act because women deserve access to this relevant information. Free faith-based pregnancy counselling and support services offer access to peer-reviewed published evidence-based information at counselling. **Anything less obstructs informed consent.** MSIA would seem to be guilty of professional, systemic reproductive coercion in withholding evidence-based information from clients. MSIA also fails to inform of pregnancy support services' ability to source some pro bono legal help and emergency accommodation.



“All life has inestimable value even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God’s creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect.”
Pope Francis

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists supported Marie Stopes draft white paper calling it ‘comprehensive’

Marie Stopes singles out religion as a reproductive coercive agent. Faith-based hospitals are accused of reproductive coercion in not providing public abortion and contraception commodities. However, the vast majority of state-run public hospitals do not provide this. Marie Stopes is referring to the Catholic Church as no other Church holds these principles. The bigotry of MSIA is unsurprising since the founder whose name and work it honours was a twentieth anti-Semite, who wrote in 1942 during the holocaust: ‘Catholics, Prussians, the Jews and Russians all are a curse or something worse.’ She admired Adolf Hitler and sent him a volume of her love poems praising his policies. She advocated for the compulsory sterilization of ‘those unfit for parenting’ (M. Stopes ‘Radiant Motherhood’) particularly the Irish in London. MSIA laud her eugenic dogmatism by honouring her name.

Her totalitarian bent is relevant to MSIA. **Its draft white paper would deny the right of conscientious objection** of doctors and midwives to inflicting pain and violence on the unborn.



'Jesus in your heart we
find

Love of the Father and
mankind

These two loves to us
impart,

divine love in a human
heart'

Marie Stopes International: research bias

MSIA cite Marie Stopes International's own 'research' into reproductive coercion. In this biased and poor quality web survey, women with unplanned pregnancies are asked five different questions as to who influenced them to continue their pregnancies. No question asked aborting mothers who influenced them to abort. Marie Stopes asked mothers 17 questions why the 'morning after pill' was not used and who influenced them. It asked those who did use it no questions about who or what influenced them to use it. MSIA reliance on this report, illustrates their disinterest in reproductive coercion to abort.

The MSIA purpose seems to be accusing pregnancy support services, pro-life health professionals and counsellors of reproductive coercion, described as 'violence' and to remove health workers' right to conscientious objection .

'To give witness today is our only and our most effective weapon' Joseph Mayr-Nusser beatified 18/3/2017

The following is from the USA Bishops statement 'Life Matters: Responding to Unplanned pregnancy'. It is equally relevant to Australia:

'Ana had changed her mind. At the last moment she got up from the abortionist's table and walked out, knowing that her decision to spare her child's life also meant that she'd be deserted by her boyfriend and her parents. Ana felt scared and alone. Searching desperately for help, she found a small pregnancy help center with a volunteer named Grace who provided ongoing love and support during this lonely and difficult time. This kind of love and support is offered again and again in over 3,700 pregnancy help centers, medical clinics, and related ministries (including pro-life social services, maternity homes) in the United States'.

Some of these organizations were formed in the late 1960's, when a handful of states began to decriminalize abortion under narrow circumstances. After the 1973 Roe v. Wade decision legalizing abortion for any reason, the number of pregnancy centers multiplied dramatically. Since then, hundreds of thousands of volunteers have served unselfishly in this grassroots effort. Currently, over 70,000 people are actively assisting in pregnancy help centers in the United States. Among them are medical personnel, social workers, counselors, teachers, homemakers, young people, business people, and clergy. This continued, selfless outpouring of kindness is truly a movement of compassion'.

Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception pray for us.

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