

Candidates' Questionnaire

- 1** *In parliamentary speeches during the 2006 RU 486 debate, many federal politicians expressed concern at Australia's high abortion rate; this concern is also reflected in recent Australian social research.*

If you are elected, will you support legislation or policy initiatives aimed at reducing the abortion rate in Australia?

Yes

No

- 2** *Recent research on why women choose abortion, indicates that financial considerations, adverse employment or career prospects and other perceived negative social consequences impact upon their decision to have an abortion.*

If you are elected, will you support social policies and initiatives that will give women a choice of alternatives to abortion?

Yes

No

- 3** *Many factors impact on women's decisions to abort their babies: such as, financial insecurity, relationship problems, interruption to study or career opportunities. Senator Stott-Despoja's Transparent Advertising and Notification of Pregnancy Counselling Services Bill 2005 will, if passed, force pregnancy support groups to advertise their services with reference to their non-referral for abortion under the threat of heavy fines for non-compliance. By contrast, the Bill does not oblige abortion counselling services to advertise that they do not offer practical help and support for women who wish to continue their pregnancy.*

Will you oppose this legislation if it is re-presented next year?

Yes

No

- 4** **Will you support those counselling services which offer women positive assistance if they wish to continue the pregnancy?**

Yes

No

- 5** *In late 2006 the Federal Parliament passed legislation permitting the cloning of human embryos to be used in research which destroys them. These provisions will be reviewed in 2010.*

Will you oppose the cloning of human embryos for destructive research?

Yes

No

- 6** **Will you oppose destructive experimentation on human embryos that are 'excess' to IVF programs or that have been declared unsuitable for implantation?**

Yes

No

- 7** *Euthanasia and assisted suicide negate the worth of human life. The sick, the elderly, those suffering mental illness need care and support. Senator Bob Brown has tabled the Australian Territories Rights of the Terminally Ill Bill 2007 which would permit euthanasia.*

Will you oppose any legislative measures, like that of Senator Brown's, to legalise euthanasia?

Yes

No

- 8** **Will you initiate or support increased funding for hospices and palliative care programs?**

Yes

No

- 9** *Recent research conducted by the AFRTLA shows that 53% of Australians are opposed to Medicare funding of any abortions performed for non-medical reasons; and that 78% were opposed to Medicare funding of any abortions after 20 weeks gestation.*

Will you initiate or support the removal or restriction of Medicare funding for abortion?

Yes

No

- 10** **Do you have any objection to our group endorsing your candidacy if your answers are essentially pro-life?**

Yes

No

- 11** **Your name?**

Selwyn Johnston - Leichhardt Independent

- 12** **Please return this Questionnaire as follows:**

by e-mail to -

[Submit Form](#)

by fax to -

(07) 3720 9844

by post to -

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