

An invitation to partner with the Moore College community in assisting pregnant women and their unborn children

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Only recently the Victorian Bill to decriminalise abortion passed into law accompanied by the applause of the Parliament. Yet for many women, the experience of abortion is anything but positive. Consider Katarina's story

*The lady who met me [at a local clinic] treated me as rudely as anyone could treat someone, there was no caring or concern in her manner. No options were presented to me. She said I was stupid to get pregnant. As I was 18 and at university she 'presumed I wanted an abortion'. I remember asking about the difference between a local and general anaesthetic and she said 'have a local, then you will know it happened and never make this mistake again.' I asked her at the time about other options, and she said 'Do you want to finish uni?' I said 'Of course'; and she replied 'well you can't have a child!' I don't remember making the decision, just that this is what I was expected to do. It seemed there would be no support and no future for me if I were to have this child.'*¹

From within the student body of Moore College, a plan has emerged to express care for the poor of the earth - in this case, the unborn and their mothers. On December 8th 2008, all families who receive Family Tax Benefit A will be given \$1000 per child in order to 'boost the economy'. It is proposed that half of this **'free money'** be used **'for new lives'** with the view to achieving three goals:

1. To support and grow Anglicare's Carramar Early Interventions, a safe-house and support program that cares for young pregnant women in adverse circumstances who want to keep their child.
2. To support Women's Forum Australia, an independent women's think tank that conducts research, education and public policy development about a range of issues that affect women. WFA brings together women from diverse backgrounds, and works across the usual political and religious divides, to advocate for life affirming, pro-woman alternatives to abortion which would enhance women's freedom to have their babies.
3. To produce a high quality TV-style ad campaign showcasing interviews with women who have had abortions and who want to speak out. Distributed via the internet, it will point pregnant women to a website with links to quality pro life counseling services across Australia, and with reliable information on abortion and its alternatives.

Money will be collected by *Anglicare* and will, in consultation with an oversight group, be divided between these three causes.

The purpose of this letter is to invite your church to partner with the students of Moore College in contributing to this **'free money for new lives'** campaign. We have set up a website (www.freemoneyfornewlives.com.au) to give you further information, keep you informed of the campaign's progress, provide you with resources to promote this campaign and to enable you and your church to give. A further information pack will be sent to your church in the next few weeks which will include a short DVD presentation, further written information for you to insert in your church newsletter, and a giving form with giving options for those who don't use the internet.

Thank you for your partnership in this timely and vital matter,

"Free money for new lives" (Moore College Student Committee)

¹ Melinda Tankard Reist, *Giving Sorrow Words: Women's Stories of Grief After Abortion*. Sydney: Duffy & Snellgrove, 2000. (Quotations from pp , 27-28. Names changed by the author.)