

# AUSTRALIAN REPRODUCTIVE HEALTH ALLIANCE and the FSA

Christina Richards CEO ARHA  
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# ARHA's Mission

1. The Australian Reproductive Health Alliance's mission is to promote public support for enhanced reproductive and sexual health in Australia and internationally, and promote the advancement of the status of women and girls by means of and including...

# ARHA'S Mission (cont.)

- ...the production of educational materials
- the organisation of seminars and workshops
- the preparation of briefing materials for members of the press
- networking with parliamentarians, government departments and other interested parties as required, and
- the support and promotion of alliances with opinion makers with comparable aims and objectives.

# ARHA's mission (cont.)

2. To promote knowledge, education and research relating to the development of family planning and other reproductive health services, paying particular attention to the needs of indigenous people, both within Australian and internationally.

# ARHA's Mission (cont.)

3. Where appropriate, to identify and support specific development projects which promote reproductive health, and enhance the status of women and girls, either working independently or with partner organisations.

# ARHA'S Mission (cont.)

4. To promote, maintain and extend the interest of ARHA members in a broad range of issues concerning reproductive health and its role in development.

# What is Reproductive Health?

“...a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity, in all matters relating to the reproductive system and its functions and processes.”

*World Health Organisation*

# What are 'Reproductive Rights'?

- The right to decide on the number, timing and spacing of children
- The right to quality medical care during pregnancy and childbirth
- The right to education about family planning and safe sex

# Millennium Development Goal 5: Improve Maternal Health

In October 2006, a welcome new target was approved under MDG5, namely:

*The achievement of universal reproductive health by 2015*

# Fertility Society of Australia aims to

- promote and improve Australasian reproductive health
- ensure that all couples have access to information that enables them to have children as quickly and easily as possible when the time comes

# FSA message

That one in six couples have fertility problems. Fertility is adversely affected by

- smoking (active and passive)
- excess alcohol consumption
- being overweight
- medical problems e.g. endometriosis, diabetes, ovarian cancer, hypertension, cardiovascular disease

# What do ARHA and FSA have in common?

- Both seek to enhance “informed choice”
- Both seek to enhance reproductive health
- Both seek to allow couples to have and to space children according to informed choice

# Possible area of contention

- ARHA has a strong environmental component (through Common Ground) that recognises that overpopulation is a global problem and that it is desirable for couples to have smaller families for both development and environmental reasons
- FSA – are there any checks on its mission to allow couples to have children “as quickly and easily as possible when the time comes...”?

# ARHA

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