

9 February 2006

Leading Women's Health Agency Welcomes Senate Vote on RU486

The Australian Reproductive Health Alliance (ARHA) welcomes the passing of the Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for approval of RU486) Bill 2005 in the Senate today.

We believe it is the correct and only decision which respects women's health and rights in Australia. It shows that the scare campaigns being run by opponents of the Bill were not enough to sway Senators from listening to scientific fact and reason.

Members of the Senate can be sure that they have voted for best practice and in accordance with the beliefs of the majority of the electorate.

This is the first step in ensuring that Australian women have the same choices available as women in similar developed countries, such as the United Kingdom and our close neighbour, New Zealand.

The passing of this bill represents a great move towards consistency in the drug evaluation process in Australia and upholds our reputation as a country which bases its medical decisions on scientific evaluation. This decision also reinforces Australia's international commitments to the International Conference on Population and Development.

This decision will also hopefully move to ease the burden of bureaucratic barriers for those people who are suffering from serious illnesses for which RU486 is a viable treatment.

For interviews contact Marie Coleman, Patron of ARHA, on 0414483067