

16 February 2006

Leading Women's Health Agency Welcomes Outcome in RU486 Debate

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 parliament today.

We have consistently held that the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) is the appropriate body to oversee the regulation of RU486 and the passing of this Bill has removed an anomaly in Australian law and has ensured that evidence-based scientific evaluation remains the basis of Australia's drug evaluation process.

This decision by the Australian parliament ensures best practice and reflects the beliefs of the majority of the Australian electorate.

This is an important step to ensure that Australian women have the same choices available as women in similar developed countries.

This result is also in keeping with Australia's international commitments to the International Conference on Population and Development in which we pledged to enhance reproductive rights, including the right to decide freely the number, timing and spacing of their children.

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