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## Majority of Australians Support RU486 Latest NewsPoll Reveals

A national NewsPoll survey released today revealed that 68% of Australians are in favour of RU486 being made available to qualified medical practitioners in order to terminate a pregnancy.

The poll — commissioned by the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance — surveyed a national cross-section of 1,200 Australians aged 18 years and over.

The survey, conducted by telephone over the weekend of the 13-15 January 2006, asked respondents, in the specific context of abortion, whether they would ‘personally be in favour, or against RU486 being made available in Australia for use by qualified medical practitioners’.

Christina Richards, CEO of the Australian Reproductive Health Alliance, said today, ‘This poll provides the most up-to-date information about what Australians really think on the issue. It clearly reveals that a majority of people support the availability of RU486.

“The electorate has given the green light to parliamentarians to vote in favour of letting the Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) (located in the Commonwealth Department of Health of Ageing) decide whether RU 486 should be treated like any other pharmaceutical drug.

“A parliamentary vote in favour of the amendment would mean that RU486 could now undergo a scientific evaluation and assessment by an independent body of suitably qualified and experienced professionals.

“Currently the use of RU486 is the only drug needing Ministerial approval on a case-by-case basis and very few have managed to successfully negotiate the processes in place to obtain it”.

**For more information please call Julia Dean ARHA Communications on (02) 6282 8922 or 0400 480 205 or for interview Christina Richards CEO ARHA on (02) 6282 8922 or 0418 874 460**

Now thinking about the topic of **abortion**. Abortion is already available in Australia using **surgical** methods. However there is a **drug** called **RU486** which can be used by doctors to terminate a pregnancy, **without** surgery, within the early stages. Would you personally be in **favour**, or **against** RU486 being made available **in Australia** for use by qualified medical practitioners?

		<b>In favour</b>	<b>Against</b>	<b>Neither/ don't know</b>	<b>Refused</b>
<b>Total 18+</b>	%	68	21	9	2
<b>Sex</b>					
Males	%	66	23	10	2
Females	%	70	20	9	2
<b>Age</b>					
18 to 34	%	67	22	9	2
35 to 49	%	71	19	9	2
50+	%	65	22	10	3
<b>Highest level of education completed</b>					
Primary/ secondary school	%	59	28	10	2
Diploma/ certificate from a college or TAFE	%	70	18	10	2
Degree or diploma from University	%	76	16	6	2



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