

15 December 2005

PUT RU486 IN THE HANDS OF THE TGA

The Australian Reproductive Health Alliance will be appearing before the Senate Community Affairs Committee on the Inquiry into Therapeutic Goods Amendment (Repeal of Ministerial responsibility for approval of RU486) Bill 2005 at 2.40 pm today.

Statement

We fully support the principle that approval or otherwise of a particular drug intended for use on humans ought to be in the hands of an arms length technically and professionally qualified entity such as the Therapeutic Goods Administration and its panels of professional advisers.

We believe this should be the over-riding principle, regardless of the particular drug or of the proposed use of the drug in question.

The TGA provides a national framework for the regulation of therapeutic goods in Australia to ensure the quality, safety and efficacy of medicine and to ensure the quality, safety and performance of medical devices. This is achieved through "evidence based" methodologies.

Using this framework the TGA have already approved more than 50, 000 therapeutic goods for use in Australia.

In reality this is a vote about the integrity of Australia's Framework for ensuring the quality, safety, efficacy of the medicines we take.

It is a vote about whether or not the TGA or the Health Minister should make critical decisions about drugs that are made available to patients.

ARHA holds the view that the TGA is the most appropriate body to address the safety and efficacy of all drugs to be used in Australia.

We see no reason to have a separate process for the one drug RU486.

For more information or for interview please call Christina Richards CEO ARHA on 6282 8925 or 0427 884 479