



Coalition for the Defence of Human Life

Newsletter May 2021 Address: PO Box 2257, Yokine South, WA 6060 Net: www.facebook.com/CoalitionforHumanLife



No life is *disposable* at any time

We gather to love and dignify **all lives** from conception to natural death, remembering **190,000 WA lives** lost to legalised abortion since 1998 and the **~27 WA babies** born alive and left to die

Wed. 16th June 2021, 7pm

@ WA Parliament - Harvest Tce, West Perth



Come to the 23rd annual **Rally for Life!**

Last year, the 22nd annual Rally for Life was cancelled due to restrictions prohibiting public assemblies because of fears about the spread of Covid-19. Instead, an online webinar presentation marked the event.

This year's rally will mark the 23rd anniversary of the legalisation of abortion in Western Australia. Over the past 23 years approximately 190,000 children have been robbed of life. We will mourn the loss of these innocent lives, as well as acknowledge the pain experienced by many women and other people directly or indirectly involved in abortion. The theme of this year's rally is "No Life is Disposable".

This year's gathering will feature a heart-warming testimony from a woman transformed after addictions and homelessness led to two abortions, which set off further mental trauma.

The unprecedented electoral swing to the Labor Party in the recent state elections resulted in the loss of many life-affirming MPs. They were, for the most part, replaced by newly-elected MPs who are committed to abortion on demand.

A forward-thinking plan will be presented, now that WA Parliament has the least pro-life MPs since the legalisation of abortion 23 years ago in 1998.

Along with Scriptural and musical reflections on the toll

of abortion and a minute of silence, we will thank MPs who fought valiantly against the legalisation of euthanasia and hear how to respond to the proposed "safe" access zone laws, and how to support significant efforts to protect babies born alive after abortion.

Please promote the Rally for Life as widely as possible. Encourage your family and friends to attend. Urge your pastor or priest to promote the rally each Sunday leading up to the event.

We are praying for a large turnout to effectively inform every new and every old member in both houses of parliament that there are thousands of life-affirming Western Australians who will continue to "love them both" and advocate for protection in law for unborn children for as long as it takes.

Please join the Facebook event reminder titled "Perth Rally for Life 2021", and share the link with your network, your family and friends, and people in your church. **Please register online at bit.ly/3y7X5KP** and arrive early to sign-in, due to strict government regulations.

For further enquiries, please contact Darryl Budge at wfo@familyvoice.org.au or Henry Hamelink at admin@cdhl.org.au



Ministers and clergy

The 23rd Annual Rally for Life will take place at 7:00 pm on Wednesday, 16 June 2021 at Parliament House. We are praying for a strong crowd this year.

We warmly invite you to join us on the steps of Parliament House. Your presence will set a positive example and be a great encouragement to all who attend. If you would like to be recognised by title and name during the gathering, please notify us in advance.

Rally for Life funding

Your gift of support to help meet the costs associated with promoting and running the Rally for Life in June and a public march planned for later this year would be greatly appreciated, especially as our funds are tight at the moment.

Please fill in and return the slip included with this newsletter.

Hearing from Coalition affiliates

The **Coalition for the Defence of Human Life** is made up of over a dozen affiliated organisations that work together harmoniously in order to defend the sanctity of human life from conception to natural death. Below are contributions from several affiliates on matters of vital interest to those who cherish the sanctity of life.

Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill 2021

Affiliate Association for Reformed Political Action — Henry Hamelink (CDHL Research Officer)

Martyn Iles observed in an ACL post last month, that when he “was in Adelaide recently at the Walk for Life, a midwife shared a disturbing testimony about a time when she was present during a late-term abortion. The dead baby was placed on a table and she was asked to photograph it for record-keeping purposes. However, the camera flash startled the baby and it began to breathe. It was alive. Not knowing what to do – and having no power to do anything – she put the baby in a storeroom.

“She checked on it over the course of hours until it slowly died, alone, without any medical care. Now, you might assume this is a rare situation, but it’s not.”¹

George Christensen, Federal MP for the seat of Dawson in northern Queensland, has drafted the Human Rights (Children Born Alive Protection) Bill 2021.

The Bill states its purpose as “A Bill for an Act to protect children born alive (including as a result of terminations), and for related purposes”. The legislation, if passed, would cover babies born alive in abortions throughout all Australian states and territories. It would ensure children born alive during a botched abortion would receive the same life-sustaining medical treatment afforded to any other baby. In NSW and SA, abortion laws already compel doctors to provide life-saving care to babies born alive.

Is this such a big deal? Do many babies survive abortions? Following Christensen’s request, researchers at the Parliamentary Library provided the following data...

- In Victoria from 2012-2016, 198 babies were born alive and left to die. This represents 12% of late-term abortions.
- In Queensland from 2005-2015, 204 babies were born alive and left to die.
- In Western Australia from 1999-2016, 27 babies were born alive and left to die.

Other States don’t provide the data. Guidance from

Queensland Health instructs medical practitioners that, “If a live birth occurs, do not provide life-sustaining treatment. Document the date and time when the end of life occurs.”

The South Australian Attorney-General’s Department recently issued FAQ to MPs which stated that when a baby is born alive, “It is wrapped in a blanket and the mother is given the opportunity to hold the baby as it dies.” Midwives have said that mothers usually refuse to hold the baby. Clearly, it’s too confronting to hold it after choosing to kill her baby.

Lyle Shelton observes that, “currently, the Federal Government’s advice to a doctor or nurse encountering a baby born alive after abortion is to “not offer treatment”.³

Iles correctly proposes that, “if this was happening to newborn puppies, whales or wombats, the animal rights outcry would be off the charts. But strangely, the humane treatment of animals does not always equate to the humane treatment of human beings. These children are living, breathing, capable of feeling pain, and capable of responding to affection. They are whole human beings, born alive and breathing.”

Bold, compassionate and determined State parliamentarians Nick Goiran of Western Australia and Dr Mark Robinson of Queensland have highlighted this issue for years. Goiran, speaking of the 27 babies born alive and left to die, said: “It is statistically inconceivable that not one of the babies could have been saved and gone on to live a normal life.”

He added: “As soon as you’re born live, you are entitled to all of the same rights and privileges as any other Australian citizen. The fact that the abortion resulted in a live birth doesn’t mean that you have less rights and privileges than any other prematurely born baby. That’s just a statement of law, and that law needs to be adhered to.”

Mr Christensen points out that Australia is in breach of two international agreements, both to which it is a signatory. These are the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and the

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

Abortion proponents claim that his bill promotes myths around late-term abortion. That begs the question: why do they oppose a bill that would outlaw infanticide? Monica Doumit in the *Catholic Weekly* gives three reasons,⁴

“First, it is an acknowledgment, right there in legislation, that abortion is a gruesome business that sometimes results in babies being born alive and, without the threat of legal consequences for doctors, would be left to die without medical care. Second, it places their doctors in the conflicted position of having two patients to whom they owe a duty of care, the mother and the baby, where successfully exercising their “duty” to provide so-called “health care” to the mother in these circumstances would be ensuring the death of the baby, to whom they also owe a duty of care. This unresolvable conflict of interest exposes the clash between the interests of mother and child that abortion creates.

“And finally, it would open the doctors up to lawsuits from both the mother and from the child. The mother could sue for the cost of raising the child that the doctor was supposed to abort, while the child could sue for ‘wrongful life’, particularly if disabilities result from the botched abortion. The abortion industry and pro-abortionists will try to marginalise Mr Christensen and suggest his views are either extreme or unnecessary, but the text of the bill shows that he is right on the money. This is what scares them most, the money. The law should not only be passed federally, but also in every state, where these horrible abortion laws exist.”

Please pray. Please do send an email, phone or meet with your Federal MP to highlight this issue. ACL and FamilyVoice have activecontact-your-MP campaigns, and please sign the petition at www.georgechristensen.com.au/bornalive.

Censorship zones petition

Affiliate FamilyVoice WA – CDHL President Darryl Budge

A massive THANK YOU to everyone who signed and shared the CDHL petition that opposed the Public Health Amendment (Safe Access Zones) Bill 2020, which would prevent life-affirming gatherings from peacefully praying outside abortion facilities. We are currently collating the signatures. The date for the petition to be presented before WA Parliament has not been set. We will certainly keep you informed of further developments!

This proposed law is so broadly drafted as to be open to misuse by organisations whose core business is to terminate the life of the unborn. The prohibited behaviours are undefined, so future regulations may preclude help for women in distress. The government has not provided any examples of harassment, intimidation and threatening behaviour. If (as the government argues) distress and anxiety is sufficient to ban such discussions, there is no rational barrier to broad bans on topics that trigger distress or anxiety. Steve Klomp reports this year’s Forty Days for Life ministry over Easter-Lent saw five women approach prayer vigil attendees and make the decision to save the life of their child. In every campaign, in every year, children are saved.

A plea to those who value the sanctity of human life

Affiliate Australian Christians Party (WA) –
Maryka Groenewald (AC WA Director)

Thankyou to the thousands of West Australians who voted for our party at the recent WA state election. Despite the substantial swing to the Labor party, our party experienced an small upswing in every upper house seat we contested. Now with the federal election expected in 2022, we believe The Australian Christians Party is the only party in our State that is unashamedly Christian, pro-life, pro-family and pro moral law. If elected, they will never falter in their convictions. Let us be a people of conviction—standing up for defenceless unborn children, and wholeheartedly committed to playing our part.

Donation Form

I/we want to support the work of the Coalition for the Defence of Human Life by:

- A one-off gift of _____ \$50 \$75 \$100
 \$250 \$500 \$1000 Other \$ _____
 \$A regular gift of \$ _____ per month.

I/we will pay by Mastercard Visa Cheque
 Direct Deposit

Title _____ Name _____

Address _____

_____ Postcode _____

Phone (____) _____

Email: _____

Card Number

Expiry Date CVV

Signature: _____

Pay by **Credit Card**: Please post this form to Coalition for the Defence of Human Life, PO Box 2257, Yokine South, WA 6060.

Pay by **Cheque**: Payable to “Coalition for the Defence of Human Life” at the address above.

Pay by **Direct Bank Deposit**: Payable to “CDHL”, BSB306 054 Account number 4158454

Thankyou for partnering with the Coalition in the defence of life for all humans from conception to natural death.

Palliative care inequitable and severely underfunded

Affiliate FamilyVoice WA — Darryl Budge

As a Coalition, we believe that the quality of a life is not a measure of the worth of a life. In other words, a life must not be ended just because a person is physically challenged, struggles to speak, or their life appears “pointless” to others.

We are concerned that the entry of lethal poison as a “treatment” devalues the lives and active holistic care of distressed individuals. Once some lives become devalued, it is likely that necessary expansion in the provision of palliative care will also be devalued.

In November 2020, Nick Goiran MLC tabled the final report of the Joint Select Committee on Palliative Care which made 56 findings and 25 recommendations.

The Committee found that the palliative care system in WA “is fragmented and its navigation is a challenge for patients.” There is a “paucity” of data on funding, numbers of GPs involved, and numbers of patients receiving palliative care.

The rollout of an IT system designed to do this kind of data collection was scrapped in 2017 due to budget constraints.

The Medicare Benefits Schedule data has such “challenging” constraints to its accessibility that it impedes WA Health’s measurement of the delivery of palliative care services.

Due to underfunding, WA still has not met the national benchmark of two full-time-equivalent (FTE) palliative care specialists per 100,000 people. WA Health also has not met the national average of 12 FTE nurses per 100,000 people. The report notes that there is inequity of access to palliative care in Rockingham and Mandurah corridor.

The report notes that additional funding to increase the palliative care workforce was not allocated in the January 2020 Expenditure Review Committee submission. Early and proactive referrals to palliative care whilst in aged care is under-prioritised. The Labor Government provided insufficient and redacted information, making it impossible to determine if community aged care providers are sufficiently funded. The report asks for an audit of this funding.

There is an emerging unease around general staffing levels at Perth metro hospitals. Please join with CDHL’s efforts by writing and speaking with MPs about critical funding and resourcing reforms for vulnerable patients as outlined above.



CDHL held a well-attended ‘Care Not Killing’ Rally in 2019

Pro-life protection kit on VAD

Affiliate Right to Life WA — Steve Klomp (40 Days for Life)

The euthanasia bill becomes law in WA on July 1st this year. Since the bill was passed the Department of Health and other government departments have been working hard on planning and documentation, in order to be ready for the new law. It is expected that significant numbers of people will choose to put in place a plan to end their lives after July 1st. The Right to Life Association of Western Australia believes that the rights of pro-life people could be neglected in the new arrangements, so we have decided it is in the best interests of our members, and others, if we develop a guide, training, notification and registry for those wishing to protect themselves or their elderly relatives. We are working for those who want to be sure that their pro-life view, their desire to have their life maintained until its natural end, is respected in this new environment. It is a very real concern for many.

The new kit will include the following elements:

1. Development of an Enduring Power of Guardianship document more in line with pro-life, Christian principles
2. Training for participants on completing an Enduring Power of Guardianship document
3. Information on individual rights on end of life issues
4. Information on how to choose a guardian
5. A “life alert” bracelet and other advertising items. The hope is to be able to offer a life alert bracelet that includes an embedded microchip, but in all other ways it will be similar to a “medic alert” bracelet
6. A letter to doctors, family and friends setting out the beliefs of the participant
7. A comprehensive database where participant details are maintained
8. Details on hospitals and other institutions where pro-life beliefs are more likely to be respected

This is a long term, high responsibility commitment by the Right to Life Association of Western Australia but it is a very important way to ensure the sanctity of human life is protected. The plan is to announce the kit at the Pro-Life Rally on June 16th and to launch later this year.

For more information please contact Steve Klomp.

Important reminders

RALLY FOR LIFE 2021 – Parliament House.
Wednesday, 16th June 2021.
Start at 7:00 pm sharp, and finish by 8:30 pm.

Please consider giving a generous gift.
Help the vital work of the Coalition for the Defence of Human Life, via the slip on page 3.

✉ This communication is authorised by Dwight Randall, 7 Lapepede Drive,