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## media release

FOR RELEASE 15 AUGUST 2005

### A great place for an abortion, but don't get sick in Wanganui

"Establishing a dedicated abortion service is being promoted as a good way to access funding for Good Health Wanganui (GWH), despite the subsequent need to reduce other services." This statement by Mrs Josephine Reeves, President of Voice For Life highlights the most dangerous flaw in the recommendations proposed to the Wanganui District Health Board, in the report for the Hospital Advisory Committee.

Voice For Life do not support any funding moves that would see GWH cut local availability of life-saving services to pregnant women, young children or older people in favour of establishing abortion services at the Wanganui Hospital.

It is currently a crime to deliberately kill an unborn child in New Zealand – except in extreme circumstances. Exactly what those 'extreme circumstances' are is set out in the Crimes Act, and women facing an abortion must be made aware of the associated risks.

"The 'extreme circumstances' provision is widely abused by health providers, to the extent that New Zealand has de facto, abortion on demand. While many seem concerned at the escalating numbers of abortions, there is scant recognition given to the long-term physical and psychological effects experienced by huge numbers of women who have an abortion," says Mrs Reeves.

The proposed plan recommends creating an 'abortion facility' in Wanganui for an operation which, according to Mrs Reeves, "should be extremely rare. It is unacceptable when you consider there is already provision to transfer women to other fully equipped centres for an abortion. If GWH can really justify the need for a dedicated abortion facility, then either they are guilty of completely flouting the law or Wanganui is home to an incredible number of the most seriously ill women in the western world. A Commission of Inquiry would appear to be more appropriate."

[ends]

For more information contact:

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**Purpose:** To educate and inform; to value and protect all human life

**Vision:** A nation which is safe for all its peoples, from conception to natural death