

PROLIFE FACTS

Newspapers and talkback radio have highlighted the renewed debate over whether parents should be notified before their underage daughter is referred for an abortion. Currently parents can be excluded from this process, while their young daughter undergoes an abortion in secret. The Sunday Star Times, which recently exposed the practice with a front page story, reported last week that most parents responding to the report wanted to be informed.

A school counsellor at a Christian school succinctly nailed one of the key issues in her letter to the NZ Herald. "Who," she asked, "comforts the girl when the nightmares kick in? The counsellor, or the parents?"

Overseas research reveals that some girls attempt to cope with their secret by turning to drugs, alcohol and sexually permissive behaviour. The parents notice the change, but are at loss as to the reasons why.

So who comforts the girl? Not the school counsellor who suggested abortion as the solution, the doctor who wrote the referral note, nor the clinic staff and the operating surgeon.

The situation in which underage girls can obtain an abortion without parental knowledge or consent must be rectified.

For more information about pro-life issues, contact Voice for Life on (09)4430995.

Half page
95 x 128.5

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Eighth page
47.5 x 128.5

Quarter page
95 x 64

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