

PROLIFE FACTS

Ultrasound scans are commonly offered to pregnant women in New Zealand in the first and second trimesters. Although unlikely to improve the outcome of pregnancy, a scan can help to estimate the baby's age and due date, discover multiple pregnancies and diagnose some problems that can occur in the health of the baby or the placenta. A transducer produces sound waves, which are reflected back by the baby's body, and these echoes are then used to produce an image of the baby on a screen. This is usually a highlight of pregnancy for many expectant mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and even aunts, uncles and grandparents. A recording of the ultrasound scan is a common memento of a child's preborn life that is kept and treasured by many parents in New Zealand!

An ultrasound is frequently carried out before a woman undergoes abortion. However, it has been the practice that the screen is turned away from the mother in this situation. Viewing the scan has the potential to help a woman recognise the humanity of her unborn baby and possibly change her mind about having an abortion. Last year, the pro-life group Right to Life highlighted the fact that several DHBs did not offer women the chance to view the ultrasound image, and made a complaint about Waikato DHB's refusal to offer women considering abortion the opportunity to see their scan. The Health and Disability Commissioner subsequently stated that women should be told of their right to view their ultrasound, depending on circumstances.

Half page
95 x 128.5

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Many parents in New Zealand keep an ultrasound recording as a treasured memento of their child's preborn life. For a woman considering abortion, viewing the ultrasound scan has the potential to help her to recognise the humanity of her unborn baby growing in her womb. Last year, the Health and Disability Commissioner ruled that women considering abortion should be told of their right to view their ultrasound, depending on circumstances.

Eighth page
47.5 x 128.5

Quarter page
95 x 64

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