

PROLIFE FACTS

The situation of a pregnant woman requesting an abortion can pose a dilemma for Christian GPs. Dr Joseph Hassan of Nelson talked with his wife, Cushla, about how to deal with this situation. Together they recognised that the response needed to go beyond a compassionate “no”, to offering other alternatives, encouragement and practical support. Through God’s direction and people’s generosity, **Crisis Pregnancy Support** came into being nine years ago. It is staffed by a dedicated team including nurses who coordinate services for each pregnant client. Joseph acts as medical advisor to the service, Cushla is one of the nurses, and about thirty other volunteers offer friendship and practical help such as housing, food, and childcare.

The staff at **Crisis Pregnancy Support** take a different approach to that of many medical professionals, who tend to process a woman’s abortion referral as quickly as possible, intending to minimise her distress. However, rushing this decision often leads to misery, so instead, the women who come to the centre are advised to slow down and establish a “window of time” in which to consider other options. Whatever decision a pregnant mother makes, the door is always open, and support with post-abortion grief can also be arranged if needed. Contact **Crisis Pregnancy Support** on 035481858 or 0800 004 cps (277) or visit their website: www.crisispregnancysupport.co.nz.

Half page
95 x 128.5

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Eighth page
47.5 x 128.5

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Quarter page
95 x 64

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