

PROLIFE FACTS

The conscience rights of New Zealand medical professionals who object to abortion has been upheld by two recent decisions.

In the first case, a technician working for the Canterbury District Health Board was summoned to a disciplinary meeting and threatened with dismissal for refusing on the grounds of conscience to prepare instruments for an abortion. She sought help from Right to Life who advised her that Section 46 of the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act, 1977 upheld her right not to assist in an abortion.

The Canterbury District Health Board subsequently withdrew the threat of dismissal and acknowledged her legal rights under Section 46. Other Canterbury DHB staff have since refused to assist in abortion preparation. The Abortion Supervisory Committee has advised all abortion licence holders of their obligations under Section 46 and to inform medical staff of their rights.

In the second case, the NZ Medical Council has recently withdrawn their appeal to a High Court decision that upheld the right of pro-life doctors not to be forced to refer a patient to another doctor for an abortion.

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

Half page
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1/ The ASC has advised all abortion licence holders of their obligations under Section 46 of the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act and to inform medical staff of their right to refuse to participate in an abortion on the grounds of conscience. 2/ The NZ Medical Council has withdrawn their appeal to a High Court decision that upheld the right of pro-life doctors not to be forced to refer a patient to another doctor for abortion. **For more info: Voice for Life (09)4430995.**

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