



Coalition for the Defence of Human Life

Newsletter July 2018 Address: PO Box 2257, Yokine South, WA 6060 Phone: 0447 694 087 Email: admin@cdhl.org.au Net: www.facebook.com/CoalitionforHumanLife

2018 Rally for Life 'Love Them Both'

On the evening of Saturday, May 26, approximately 1,500 people gathered at the Supreme Court Gardens for the 20th Annual Rally for Life. This year was a particularly solemn occasion, as it marked exactly 20 years of legal abortion in Western Australia.

Attendees gathered around a display of 3,300 white crosses laid out in the form of a single large cross. Each individual cross represented 50 innocent victims of abortion in WA over the past 20 years alone – a total of 165,000 lives taken with state approval. The poignant display, which was present in the Supreme Court Gardens for the whole weekend, was a powerful way of bringing the sheer scale of abortion to the attention of Rally attendees as well as many other members of the public.

The gathering was led in a minute of silence to remember these precious children, and the women and others harmed by abortion.



A letter of apology from Archbishop Emeritus Barry Hickey was read by Brian Peachey, a co-founder and former president of the Coalition. He wrote, 'I am sorry that I cannot be with you tonight. ... We live in difficult times when anti-life lobbies, with their privileged access to the media, pursue their agenda with relentless force, seeking to claim the victory and silence all others. We may not have the same access to the media, which is often unsympathetic to our cause, but we do have a truth to give and the power of the Holy Spirit to help us proclaim it from the rooftops. ...'

During the Rally service, the CDHL presented William Wilberforce Awards to Members of Parliament with a long-term



3,300 crosses representing 165,000 unborn children deprived of life since 1998

record of consistently voting pro-life. The awards read, 'In recognition of years of faithful service in defence of human life and the protection of unborn children in the Parliament of Western Australia this Award is presented to (name of recipient), 26th May 2018.' The award was signed by Dwight Randall, President CDHL. Across the bottom of the award a quote from William Wilberforce in the House of Commons on 18th April 1791 was printed, 'Whatever may be its success, I have attached my happiness to their cause, and shall never relinquish it.' Recipients of what has been called 'the most prestigious award in WA politics' included Michelle Roberts, MLA, Nick Goiran, MLC, Simon O'Brien, MLC, Kate Doust, MLC, and Donna Faragher, MLA.

Addressing the Rally, Maryka Groenewald, co-chair of the rally commented that the passing of abortion law 'marked a deadly watershed in the history of this state. It reflects a society which has lost its most basic sense of justice and entered a very dark era.

'In 2017 there were 7,827 abortions in Western Australia. Included in that total were 78 children at 20 weeks gestation or later who were aborted at King Edward Memorial Hospital. Some were beyond the age of viability...

'Try to picture what over 80,000 girls and over 80,000 boys ranging from birth to 19 years of age would look like. The loss of these children should break our hearts. It should cause us to redouble our determination to demand that our State's brutal

Continued on page 2



Introduction to the William Wilberforce Awards



*The following is the text of the speech given by **Andrew Lansdown** at the 2018 Rally for Life to introduce the William Wilberforce Awards, presented to MPs with an outstanding pro-life record.*

In a few minutes we will be presenting the William Wilberforce Awards to certain members of parliament 'For consistent service in the defence of human life and the protection of unborn children in the Parliament of Western Australia'.

The Coalition for the Defence of Human Life has named the awards after William Wilberforce because of the parallels between his fight to end slavery and our fight to end abortion. Slavery and abortion both depend upon the dehumanising of certain classes of human beings. Both devalue human life and subordinate it to the personal whims and economic interests of the powerful. And like abortion today, slavery in its day was so widely supported in the community that opposition to it seemed futile.

William Wilberforce dedicated himself to the abolition of slavery in 1787, seven years after entering the British parliament and two years after becoming a Christian.

Year after year Wilberforce put up a bill to abolish the slave trade, and year after year his bill was defeated and he himself was mocked and vilified. Twenty years passed before his bill passed through the parliament in 1807. Wilberforce then laboured for another 26 years to abolish slavery itself. Think of it: 20 years to abolish the *trade* of slavery and a further 26 years to abolish the *practice* of slavery; 46 years in all. That's dedication! That's perseverance!

The film *Amazing Grace* was released a decade ago to mark the 200th anniversary of the enactment of William Wilberforce's bill to abolish the slave trade. One scene in the film is particularly poignant. The secretary of Wilberforce's anti-slavery society had returned from the West Indies, where he had witnessed the brutality of slavery firsthand. He reported that the slaves knew

about, and took hope from, Wilberforce's struggle on their behalf. Then he said, 'I saw a woman and her child being beaten in a coffee field. And afterwards I heard the woman tell her daughter that someone was coming across the sea to save them. She said it was King Wilberforce.'

My dear life-loving members of parliament, can you hear them, the little children in the waiting rooms of the abortion clinics in Perth? One is saying, 'I've heard that someone is coming across the city to save us.' And another is replying, 'Yes, I've heard it too. I've heard that King O'Brien is coming, and Queen Roberts, too.'

Of course, this is a fantasy. Unborn children snuggled in their mothers' wombs in the abortion clinic waiting-rooms cannot speak, nor do they know of attempts to save them. But I know and I can speak. And I want to say this to you regal parliamentarians who are about to receive the William Wilberforce Awards:

I saw you, Michelle Roberts and Simon O'Brien, in action during the abortion debates in parliament over those terrible weeks in 1998. I saw your dedication, your sacrifice, your integrity, your valour. And since then I have seen other noble parliamentarians take up the fight for life. Well done, your Majesties!

Oh, may you continue to be to the unborn children of Western Australia what William Wilberforce was to the enslaved peoples of the British territories! Regardless of the waves and the currents and the winds, keep crossing the seas of cruelty until you reach the children and save them. Be their Wilberforce. Be their liberating kings and queens. May the High King of Heaven help you in this great endeavour!

Continued from page 1

abortion law be reversed and replaced with a compassionate law that provides protection for both mother and child.

'We should not allow ourselves to become discouraged. We are having an impact. The abortion rate in Western Australia is steadily dropping. It is at 18 per cent, down from the high of 26 per cent in 2001. While we should never be satisfied, even if one abortion is taking place per year, this is a significant drop.'

Andrew Lansdown reflected back in time by reading an article that he wrote entitled, 'A baby in a bottle.' This article, which deals with the circumstances that led to the legalisation of abortion 20 years ago, can be read at <https://www.lifeministries.org.au/a-baby-in-a-bottle/>

After reading the article, Dwight Randall, President of the Coalition and co-chair of the rally said, 'When Andrew spoke of the opposition to the two abortion Bills 20 years ago, he was speaking about the work of the Coalition for the Defence of Human Life. It was the Coalition that fielded a petition that tens-of-thousands of people signed. It was the Coalition that ran two public rallies, each attended by approximately 2,500 people.

It was the Coalition that urged pro-life MPs to oppose legalisation, and supported them in their efforts to do so. I say these things because it is appropriate to recognise the faithful work of the Coalition and its affiliates over the past 20 years.'

The first keynote speaker was Megan Ngatai, who shared her experience of facing an unexpected pregnancy at just 17 years of age. Megan was pressured by many people to procure an abortion, but found help and support from staff at Pregnancy Problem House and people in her church. She talked about the sheer joy of motherhood, of falling in love and getting married. Megan is pregnant and eagerly anticipating the birth of her fourth child.

The second keynote speaker was Michelle Macormic, Executive Director of Pregnancy Problem House who spoke with attendees about how to support women in crisis pregnancy situations (an edited version of her speech is contained on page 3 of this newsletter).

The CDHL wishes to thank all who attended and supported the 2018 Rally for Life, especially those from the Free Reformed Churches who made the display of crosses possible.

‘Love Them Both’

*After the Rally for Life, many people expressed interest in the ‘LOVE’ approach as presented by **Michelle Macormic**, a keynote speaker at the rally. Below is an edited version of her talk which we believe could be extremely helpful to our readers when reaching out to pregnant women in crisis.*

While many argue about whose life matters more – the woman or the unborn – perhaps we need to refuse to engage in this battle and instead, choose a third option: to love them both.

The problem of unsupported pregnancy does not originate within the body of a woman, but in a society that is not willing to provide for the children it creates.

If we are going to see less abortions, we need to work hard to understand the pressures that push women towards abortion so that we can compassionately, generously and creatively offer to meet those needs.

What does that look like – to respond to the needs of women struggling because of pregnancy in difficult circumstances?

It is a movement of LOVE. It is hard work. It is expensive – it takes time, money and vulnerability. It takes a society who are willing to stop arguing and start listening.

So when a friend, neighbour or family member comes to you, pregnant, frightened and confused, what can you do?

You can show her LOVE. I mean that literally – please love her – your motive for helping her must be love, not self.

And while our motive must be love, our method is also L-O-V-E. Use the word ‘LOVE’ to remind yourself of four important steps to providing hope to the woman in crisis.

L is for Listen and Learn

Please give her the gift of a listening heart. Invite her to share about her situation and how she feels about it. Put on the kettle, put your phone in silent mode, grab a box of tissues and give her your full attention.

The less you know her, the more you need to listen. Keep your body language open and relaxed but attentive. Lean in and give her reassuring eye contact.

Please resist telling her what you think she should do, or what you did or would have done in a similar situation. Keep it about her. Even if she asks you for advice, hold back until you have truly heard her. Chances are, anyone else she has already talked to has told her what to do. Be the first person to ask what she wants to do and give her a safe space to wrestle and to be honest without fear of judgement or manipulation.

Be gentle, but ask good questions. What is she most worried about? Let her make a list of as many concerns as she needs to. She may have concerns that are physical, emotional, practical or spiritual. She may have issues in her past that are shaping her reaction to her present situation.

She will probably want to talk to you first about her problems, but don’t stop there. Ask her about her strengths, and listen for them as she tells her story. She is so brave for talking to you, and by admitting she needs help, she has shown she is humble and wise. These are signs of her strengths. ...

Keep listening, and figure out her areas of awareness. Observe what she knows, and what information she may be missing. What are her beliefs, her values, her dreams and plans? If she is very upset, it may help her if you suggest she think outside her current predicament. How did she feel about her future before she was in this situation? If she was helping a friend in a similar situation, what would she advise her to do? By helping her step outside



her distress and panic, you are helping her to think clearly and feel safe to keep working through her tears.

O is for Open Options

Use what you have learned about her and her situation in the ‘L’ step and share information about her option she needs to consider to make a life-giving decision. ... Share in a loving and caring, non-judgemental way about her different options – find out what she knows, offer factual information and correct misunderstandings.

Be objective rather than emotional: avoid shocking her, respect her boundaries. Suggest she consider the immediate and long term benefits and consequences of each choice. Focus on her life – you cannot help her or her baby without her permission, and if you help her, you are helping both!

V is for Vision and Value

Help her to see herself differently: that she is beautiful, valuable, unique, strong, worth fighting for, deserving of hope, peace, joy and love, created in the image of our wise and loving Father who sent His Son to redeem her (but wait to share about Him until she asks!)

Awaken a vision in her for a healthier, healed, whole life. Help her to see that she deserves better than abortion, abuse, abandonment, being used, coercion etc. Demonstrate that she is capable of making choices that honour herself and the little life that she carries.

E is for Extend and Empower

Explain that you will be there for her as long as she needs your help. Offer personal and additional support available through services that you are aware of that are relevant to her needs.

Help her to find support through her family, friends and community. Empower her to start solving her own problems. Remind her that she is never alone. Come up with a plan – what does she need to do next?

What do you need to do next for her? It’s okay if you don’t have all the answers as long as you admit you’re unsure but offer to find out so you can learn together. Arrange follow up care. Would she like to meet again? Would she like a follow up call or email? ... Only make promises you can keep, and make sure you keep them. Because when you love the woman, you love them both!

The ‘LOVE Method’ was first developed by Heartbeat International.

A letter from Nick Goiran, MLC to the Rally for Life

I apologise that this will be the first rally that I am unable to attend since I was elected to Parliament in 2008. I am disappointed because as I have said previously, I consider the rally the most significant of all rallies held at Parliament each year. It consistently attracts the largest number of attendees and yet ironically it is consistently ignored by our mainstream media.

As promised, here is a brief update on my prolife efforts since last year's rally:

1. In August I was appointed to serve on the eight member Select Committee on End of Life Choices. The committee has received more than 650 submissions a majority of which are opposed to the legalisation of assisted suicide. In addition the committee has held 81 public hearings including one with the Coalition for the Defence of Human Life. The Committee is due to report by 23 August 2018.

2. In November I had the privilege of tabling the largest petition tabled in the Legislative Council last year. I am indebted to the Coalition for organising it and to the 7,243 petitioners who signed it. The following month I provided the Standing Committee on Environment and Public Affairs my submission which is available online. I have since written again to the committee to implore them not to accept the five short paragraphs from the Minister in April this year as an acceptable response to the case of the 27 Western Australian babies born alive but left to die. It is truly astounding that the media have not thought this worthy of attention. It must be emphasised that 6 of those babies were born at 26 weeks or later! I can think of no other situation in our State where a child left to die would not provoke an outcry.

3. Lastly, you will recall that in February 2015 I secured a commitment that all late-term abortions in our State would be the subject of a new annual report to the Minister for Health. Answers to my questions in parliament have revealed that reports were prepared in 2014/15 and 2015/16 but that in both instances they were altered. To make matters worse those reports have been kept secret. As a consequence I have two complaints being prosecuted at this time. The first has been with the Auditor General since October last year.

The second has been with the Freedom of Information Commissioner since November. Both of those offices tell me that decisions are pending. In the meantime it is worth noting with distress that since 2002 at least 43 late-term abortions have occurred because the baby had Down syndrome.

Once again I convey my sincerest apologies for my unavailability to attend the rally this year due to a longstanding personal commitment.

Yours faithfully,

Hon Nick Goiran MLC

Member for the South Metropolitan Region

Shadow Minister for Child Protection; Prevention of Family & Domestic Violence



Calling all university students!

Over the past 12 months, the CDHL has been practically and financially supporting the establishment of the LifeChoice movement of university based pro-life groups here in WA. The following is an edited version of the speech given by Isabelle Lindsey, WA representative of Life Choice Australia at the 2018 Rally for Life.

I've been invited to introduce the pro-life group LifeChoice to Perth. Some of you know who we are, but I imagine that most of you don't. So as a formal introduction, LifeChoice is a student based pro-life group. We aim to start prolife groups on universities around Australia. We aim to promote the dignity of human life from conception until natural death through reasonable and informed discussion on abortion and euthanasia.

In February 2017 my cousin and I attended the week-long LifeChoice internship in Sydney. The internship was designed to equip pro-life students with the knowledge to defend and promote their pro-life views. What I learned drove me to take action and work with Celeste Bertino-Clarke and a great team to bring this pro-life group to Perth.

Many of us here tonight are university students and there's a huge space now in universities for the pro-life movement to flourish. It's easier to encourage discussion and debate on university campuses than it is in most workplaces so this is a great environment to challenge the status quo. People attend university for years so this is great opportunity to interact with the same people over a number of years.

Perhaps the most important reason we need a pro-life presence on our university campuses is because there are so many pregnant university women who fall into the trap of believing the lie that having a baby in their current situation is incompatible with happiness. We need to be the last lifeline offering them hope and support when no-one else will.

So I really encourage all you university students to consider becoming involved with LifeChoice, and be a positive voice for life in our culture!

If you are interested in being part of LifeChoice, please send an email to lifechoiceperth@gmail.com



Some of the WA young people already committed to LifeChoice

WA Government indicates support for abortion clinic 'bubble zones'

The Western Australian Labor Government is set to argue for 'safe access zones' around abortion facilities in the High Court of Australia, leading the way for new laws covering 'protests'.

In 2016, Kathleen Clubb (the mother of 13 children), was fined \$5000 for simply offering assistance to women approaching an abortion facility in Melbourne. The case has now been brought before the High Court, with Kathy and her lawyers arguing that Victoria's laws are incompatible with the freedom to political communication in the Constitution of Australia.

In a submission on behalf of WA Attorney-General John Quigley (who has consistently voted pro-life in the past), the government argued that the Victorian law does not prevent protests associated with—or in the vicinity of—abortion clinics. 'The inability to engage in behaviour within 150 metres of an abortion clinic ... does not prevent any person from putting a message that they best consider will have the greatest impact on public opinion or political or legislative change.'

This claim is wrong on at least two grounds. People like Kathleen Clubb, and groups like 40 Days for Life and the Helpers of God's Precious Infants, do not gather in front of abortion facilities to instigate political or legislative change, but to quietly pray for pregnant women and their unborn children with the

hope that some women will see them and change their minds. Because of their presence, many women have rejected and abortion and chosen life for their child.

Furthermore, restricting these groups from gathering within 150 metres of an abortion clinic will have an huge impact—it will effectively end their capacity to help pregnant women, which is precisely the reason behind the zones.

Recent comments from Health Minister Roger Cook indicate that the WA Government has plans to introduce 'bubble zones'.

What YOU can do to prevent similar laws coming into force in Western Australia:

1. **Write to Members of Parliament** to explain your opposition to abortion clinic 'exclusion zones'. Draw attention to the fact that WA already has effective laws against harassment and intimidation, and that 'bubble zone' laws will result in many women being denied much-needed support.
2. **Write letters to newspapers**, exposing the myth vs. reality of what really happens outside abortion clinics.
3. **Financially support the work of groups such as the CDHL** who will take a leading role in opposing any such laws.

A response to the West Australian

*On Thursday, May 31 the West Australian published an article entitled 'State Government to argue for abortion clinic exclusion zones in the High Court'. Unsurprisingly, it failed to include any positive discussion of the work of those who keep vigils outside abortion facilities. In response, **Dwight Randall**, President of the Coalition for the Defence of Human Life, wrote the following (unpublished) letter to the editor:*

Dear Sir,

Re: State Government to argue for abortion clinic exclusion zones in the High Court, *West*, 31 May 2018

The WA Labor Government seems to have a morbid fascination with death – both at the beginning and the end of human life.

Almost exactly 20 years ago Labor MLC Cheryl Davenport's private member's bill became law and legalised abortion for any reason up to 20 weeks, and for certain reasons beyond that. Since then 165, 000 unborn children have been deprived of life in WA.

But it seems this is not enough! Now the WA Labor Government is determined to deprive unborn children of one last glimmer of hope, a chance being offered by compassionate people who pray quietly in front of abortion facilities, hoping that some women – perhaps those who have been pressured to abort – may reconsider, thus sparing themselves regret and guilt, and giving their baby life.

Indeed, many have changed their minds because these people cared enough to face scorn by their presence at an abortion facility.

But this shouldn't happen, should it, under the watch of a government that has a fascination with death and doesn't want even a single woman to change her mind, or an abortion mill to lose a single paying client!

Sadly, it is not only the unborn that are in the sights of the government. So are the elderly and frail. Rather than protecting and valuing each life as infinitely precious – which is the true duty of government – this Labor government (with some shining exceptions) seems determined to introduce euthanasia legislation that will inevitably morph from killing those who ask for it, to those who do not, from the terminally ill to the mentally ill and elderly, and from a 'right' to die to a 'duty' to die.

The citizens of this state should be gravely concerned about the McGowan Labor Government's fascination with death, and its determination to silence freedom of speech.

Yours truly,

Dwight Randall, President
Coalition for the Defence of Human Life



One of the signs displayed at 40 Days for Life prayer vigils

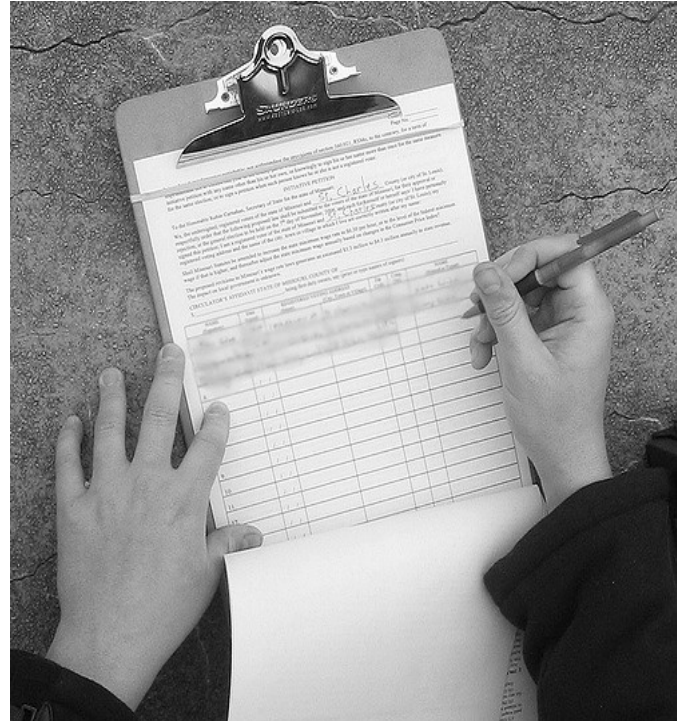
Petition against the legalisation of euthanasia and assisted suicide: Your help is needed!

The State Government seems determined to introduce legislation to legalise euthanasia and/or assisted suicide in WA. It is critical that we who know the true value and dignity of every life work together to prevent this ever becoming law.

The CDHL is circulating a petition that urges the Parliament 'not to legalise euthanasia and/or assisted suicide in Western Australia' but rather to 'ensure that adequate palliative care is provided to all who need it.' If we are to be successful against this current push for euthanasia, it is essential that we show the Parliament of WA that public opinion is firmly against such a move.

Last year, with your help, the CDHL presented a petition with over 7,000 signatures to Parliament calling for an inquiry into the issue of babies born alive but left to die after an abortion procedure – by far the largest petition presented to the WA Parliament in that year. This year, can we make an even greater impact and present over 10,000 signatures?

Enclosed with this newsletter is a copy of the petition for you to sign and share with your friends, family, church and local community. If you require more sheets, you can photocopy the page provided or download more from the CDHL website (www.cdhl.org.au). Please note the Parliament of WA will only accept hard-copy petitions signed by residents of WA.



Be part of the pro-life generation: Please support the work of the CDHL

This year, the Coalition for the Defence of Human Life has been working hard to continue to uphold the dignity of every human life in WA, from conception until natural death.

And with the current state Labor Government committed to introducing legislation sooner rather than later for both physician assisted death as well as 'bubble zones' around abortion clinics to criminalise those who peacefully and respectfully offer real help to women, we are at a critical moment in WA history.

We know that truth, reason and compassion is on our side. However, the reality is that our opponents are much better funded and resourced than we are. This makes our work a constant uphill battle.

The very lives of our oldest and youngest members of society are under threat. Could there be a more important cause to support?

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The CDHL is circulating a petition that urges the Parliament 'not to legalise euthanasia and/or assisted suicide in Western Australia' but rather to 'ensure that adequate palliative care is provided to all who need it.'

If we are to be successful against this current push for euthanasia, it is essential that we show the Parliament of WA that public opinion is firmly against such a move.

The CDHL relies completely on your generosity to continue being one of the strongest voices for the most vulnerable in our society. Would you please consider making a regular or one-off donation towards the CDHL? Every donation – no matter how small – is most gratefully received.

