



# Reasons to stand FOR *life*

## Every human life is precious...

Our children, surely are our greatest gift, in need of protection, **nurture and most of all love** as they grow and develop, eventually becoming adults.

Sadly though not every child is warmly welcomed, nurtured and protected. For many reasons, and often because *she feels she has no other choice*, a mother may choose abortion—often a brutal procedure—ending the life of a pre-born child whose heart has been beating from 21 days.

In 2016, **35 preborn children were aborted every single day** in NZ— a total of 12,823. Since 1974, half a million Kiwis are missing.

Women know this is a big deal. They have to live with their loss, physical effects suffered, their emotions. Men regret their lost fatherhood. Almost every family has been touched by abortion.

**Women are strong!** Strong enough to choose their dreams and their baby.

Let's work together to **stand for life**, to **protect the unborn**, and make **abortion unthinkable** in New Zealand.

**Let's love them both!**



"The **scientific answer** is that the **embryo** is a **human being** from the time of **fertilization** because of its **human chromosomal constitution**.



The **zygote** is the beginning of a **developing human**."



*Source: Keith L. Moore, T.V.N. Persaud, Mark G. Torchia, Before We Are Born: Essentials of Embryology, 8th edition. Philadelphia, PA: Saunders, 2013. p.327*

## What is the abortion law in NZ?

Abortion is regulated by two Acts: The Crimes Act 1961 and the Contraception, Sterilisation and Abortion Act 1977 (CS&A Act).

The Crimes Act specifically protects women from being convicted for having an abortion, although the CS&A Act mentions a fine not exceeding \$200 if a woman procures *her own* miscarriage.

Two certifying consultants must agree that the abortion is legal.

Counselling is not mandatory.

Throughout all nine months of pregnancy an abortion can be obtained for *serious danger to the life, or physical or mental health of the woman*.

In addition the following reasons are valid up until 20 weeks gestation:

- Physical or mental disability;
- Incest;
- *Intellectual disability of the woman/girl.*

The following can be taken into account, but are not in themselves grounds for abortion:

- Age of the mother
- Sexual violation (rape).

## What support services are available in the community?

Often women choose abortion because they feel they have no other choice. There are a multitude of organisations and individuals throughout New Zealand who offer a variety of services and support so that women are empowered to make decisions that allow them to follow their dreams and carry their baby to birth. **Pregnancy tests, pregnancy confirming ultrasound, discussions about all pregnancy options, pre-natal care, tending to practical needs and ongoing support after baby is born** are just some of the services offered. Many of these organisations also offer support after abortion through abortion recovery programmes.

For a list of some organisations see **[marchforlifenz.org.nz/get-help](http://marchforlifenz.org.nz/get-help)**

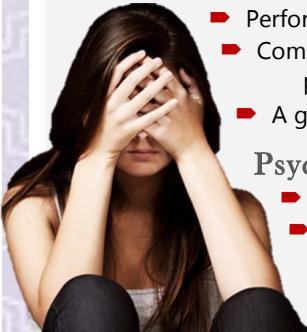


## How does abortion effect women?

Complications and effects vary depending on the individual woman and the circumstances around her abortion and the procedure used. The following is a generalised list highlighting **some** effects:

### Physical:

- Abdominal pain and cramping
- Nausea, vomiting, diarrhoea
  - Haemorrhage
  - Perforated uterus
  - Complications in later pregnancies, such as ectopic pregnancies, placenta praevia and premature birth
  - A greater risk for developing breast cancer



### Psychological:

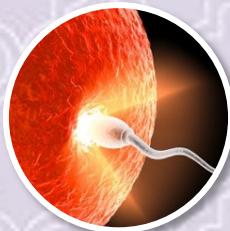
- Greater risk of mental health problems
- Greater risk of substance abuse and suicide

Sources: Health Research Council of NZ, Elliot Institute and [abortionservices.org.nz](http://abortionservices.org.nz)

"Like an animal **caught in a trap**, trying to gnaw off its own leg, a woman who seeks an abortion is **trying to escape a desperate situation** by an act of **violence** and **self-loss**. Abortion is not a sign that women are free, but a sign that they are **desperate**.

Frederica Mathewes-Green

## Stages of Fetal Development



### Conception

At fertilization, a new unrepeatable human being was created with its own separate DNA.

### 3 weeks

My heart begun beating at 21 days.



### 5-6 weeks

My arms and legs start to grow. Brainwaves can be detected.

### 8 weeks

I can turn my head, suck my thumb and yawn. I can stretch and sigh.

My face, palms of hands and soles of feet are all sensitive to touch. 90% of all the body parts found in an adult are now present. **Now, I just need time to grow.**



### 12 weeks



### 20 weeks



### newborn

Fetus means  
"young one" or "unborn offspring"!

Dates are from conception, add 2 weeks to find pregnancy dates from the LMP.

## I was unexpectedly pregnant...

...scared, frightened and unsure of what to do. I didn't want a baby at that time and it all seemed so easy and OK to terminate that pregnancy.

No one told me how I may feel later, no one shared their negative experience, it was all too quick and easy and I thought life would just roll along as normal afterwards.

And initially it did feel OK, but it wasn't until a few years later when I started my family and my children grew that I saw the choice I made earlier was not the right one.

It's only now years on and as a mother that I fully understand the decision I made. I didn't know what I was doing - if I did I wouldn't have done it.

If I can save someone else from the torment, regret and guilt I now live with, this letter is worth it. Hopefully you can learn from my dreadful mistake.

...Someone is missing from my life forever that was a gift and was meant to be but I was too young and ignorant to see it.

...You can still have a great life with children and reach your dreams and goals.

When I saw a counsellor before my termination, she said I would feel so much better afterwards... she was soooo wrong. I now feel heartbroken and so angry at myself and if I could turn the clock back I would NEVER have gone through with the abortion.

With warmth and compassion from someone who has been in this difficult position.

Charlotte

Read Charlotte's full letter at  
[pregnantandworried.org.nz/files/CharlottesLetter.pdf](http://pregnantandworried.org.nz/files/CharlottesLetter.pdf)