



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!

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).

12,823
REPORTED
ABORTIONS

35
EVERY DAY

1,226
13 TO 19
WEEKS

87
20 WEEKS
PLUS

16
WERE 25
WEEKS PLUS

"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 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**



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:

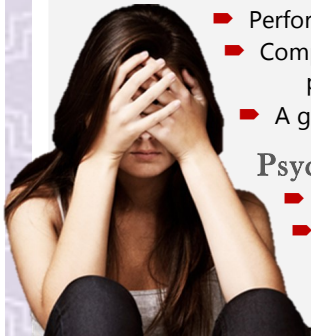
Physical:

- 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 abortionsservices.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 sooooo 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