

Candidates' Questionnaire

1 *The Human Rights Act 2004 (ACT) claims to be based on the human rights covered in the UN Convention on Civil and Political Rights. Article 6 of the Convention says: '1. Every human being has the inherent right to life. This right shall be protected by law. No one shall be arbitrarily deprived of his life.'*
No exceptions are stated in this UN document. However, the Stanhope Government restricted the right to life in section 9 of the Human Rights Act as follows: '(1) Everyone has the right to life. In particular, no-one may be arbitrarily deprived of life. (2) This section applies to a person from the time of birth.'

If you are elected, will you support deleting section 9(2) from the ACT Human Rights Act?

Yes

No

2 *The Stanhope Government amended the Crimes Act (ACT) to increase the penalty for an assault on a woman if harm is caused to 'the pregnancy'. Previously Mr Steve Pratt (Liberal) unsuccessfully proposed a Bill that would make **injury to the unborn child** a separate offence so that the offender might be tried according to the harm inflicted on the child, for example manslaughter or murder where the child dies.*

If you are elected, will you support strengthening the Crimes Act to take account separately of injury to unborn children following an attack on the mother?

Yes

No

3 *Women experiencing problems with pregnancy need assistance so that they make an informed choice. The Association thinks that pregnant women should be given information about the baby's development, the risks of abortion, the help available from private and public sources, and have a 'cooling-off' period between consulting the abortion provider and the abortion procedure.*

If you are elected, will you support legislation to provide these services to pregnant women?

Yes

No

4 *Currently the ACT and the Northern Territory are prevented by Commonwealth law from legislating on euthanasia. There is a Bill before the Senate to return this power to both territories.*

If the ACT Legislative Assembly regained the power to legislate in respect of euthanasia, will you oppose any move to legalise euthanasia?

Yes

No

5 *ACT legislation allows embryos generated from IVF procedures to be used in research; it also allows the cloning of embryos (a clone is a genetic copy of another person) specifically for research. All these human embryos are deliberately destroyed.*

If you are elected, will you oppose the use of excess IVF embryos for research purposes?

Yes

No

6 **If you are elected, will you oppose the manufacture of human embryos by cloning for research purposes?**

Yes

No

7 **If you are elected, will you oppose creating embryos which mix human and animal material?**

Yes

No

8 *All laws relating to abortion were deleted from the ACT Crimes Act in August 2002. This means that unborn children can be killed up to the moment of birth without the commission of any offence.*

If you are elected, will you support the introduction of laws protecting the unborn child: a. from conception; b. from 12 weeks of gestation; c. from when the child is capable of being born alive at about 22-24 weeks of gestation?

From conception

From 12 weeks gestation

From 22-24 weeks gestation

None of the above

9 **Your name**

10 **Please return this Questionnaire by 3 October to:**

by e-mail - *actrtla@actrtla.org.au*

by post - *PO Box 333
Civic Square ACT 2608*

by phone - *(02) 6161 0711 to arrange
a telephone interview*