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For immediate release

NOT THE FULL STORY: ANTI-ABORTION CLAIMS ON RU486 PUBLISHED IN THE AGE

Women's Health Victoria is concerned that claims published in *The Age* on 11 August do not disclose Melinda Tankard-Reist's anti-abortion position, which has been publically documented.

According to Rita Butera, Executive Director of Women's Health Victoria, "The inclusion of mifepristone (RU486) and misoprostol on the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme represents an important milestone for women in Australia".

"In a study of 6,775 medical abortions published in the *Medical Journal of Australia*, most women said that their side-effects and experiences were either as expected or better than expected," Ms Butera said.

"Like any medical procedure, women need to be informed about the risks and benefits of medical abortion before they proceed. However, many women prefer medical to surgical abortion. It can make abortion more accessible, less medicalised and less expensive. Some women consider it a more natural method because it does not involve surgery."

"The World Health Organization includes mifepristone and misoprostol in their list of essential medicines. This is based on thorough evidence about safety, efficacy, public health and cost-effectiveness. These medicines are also used in Europe, the United Kingdom, the United States and New Zealand."

"The inclusion of mifepristone and misoprostol in the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme allows women to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and to access safe and affordable abortion," Ms Butera said.

Women's Health Victoria acknowledges the support of the Victorian Government.

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