

ABORTION:
241/92S

RESOLVED:

THAT THE SYNOD

adopt the following policy statement on abortion:

- i) In a world of peace, justice and harmony of relationships, where hopes are fulfilled and plans succeed, there would be little need for women to seek abortions. However, we recognise that abortion must remain a legal option for a woman who is unable to continue her pregnancy.
- ii) That the best person to make the decision to proceed with an abortion is the pregnant woman, after consultation with her family, friends and trusted advisers.
- iii) That the seeking of an abortion should not be a subject of the criminal law, and that women who make a decision for abortion should have access to adequate counselling, pastoral care and medical services. The issue of abortion is a social and not a criminal one.
- iv) That the Church commit itself to support women who continue their pregnancy, and help them within the community.
- v) That the Church continue to advocate support for women and families within the wider community.
- vi)
 - (a) While the Church does not encourage casual sexual relationships, it does encourage all attempts to educate young people and the use of contraceptives, and all people on the need for commitment and responsibility in sexual intercourse.
 - (b) Endorse the distribution of the Unplanned Pregnancies Pamphlet prepared by Presbytery of Sydney.
 - (c) Actively promote to men equal responsibility for the prevention of unwanted pregnancies.
- vii) That there be mutual respect in the christian community on the issue of abortion. That all persons, both those who oppose abortion in any form and those who support women seeking abortion, should continue to seek further wisdom and guidance from God.