



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

**9 February 2005**

### **Bishops Welcome Prime Minister's Comment on Abortion Debate**

The Australian Catholic Bishops Conference today welcomed the Prime Minister's willingness to allow a debate on abortion.

Archbishop Francis Carroll, President of the Australia Catholic Bishops Conference, said that abortion was a matter of concern in the community with strong views held by many people.

'It is important that social policy be based on reliable information and that we have a better understanding of the reasons that lead to women choosing abortion,' he said.

'No-one should argue for suppressing information that would help women in distressing circumstances,' he said.

The Catholic Church remains committed to offering services to assist women faced with difficulties in pregnancy.

For further information, please contact Fr Brian Lucas, General Secretary on 0419 243 959.