



Is FLI worth supporting?

When I took on the role of Executive Director of Family Life International (Australia) Ltd. (FLI) on the 1st October 2010 I was quite excited about the opportunity to work on a full time basis in the pro-life/pro-family world and my ambition and goal was to make FLI into a substantial force in Australian social and political life. Now it is six years just past I have been in the position and we certainly are not the force in Australian social and political life I had hoped for.

As a supporter of FLI over this time it is certainly important that you know what we have been doing and what sort of projects your hard earned donations have gone to. The question I want to ask you now is this, "Is it worth continuing to financially support FLI?" To assist you with your answer here is a highlight of our last six years.

We firstly established a Board of Advisers which includes now Archbishop Julian Porteous as our Patron and former Deputy prime Minister, Mr John Anderson AO as well as experts from the fields of Medicine, Law, Theology, Philosophy, Psychology and Economics and from which group are several published authors. We have held multiple dinners, both fundraising dinners as well dinners that brought together the pro-life community.

One of the most important tasks we have undertaken was the hugely successful and very generously supported New York Retreat back in 2011. We took 30 young pro-life activists to the Precious Blood Monastery in Brooklyn, New York for 12 days to learn from the greatest pro-lifer in the world, Monsignor Phillip Reilly. Of the 30, FLI paid the expenses of 15 of them and myself.

We have held many 40 Days for Life Campaigns in Sydney. These have all been a great success. It is also great to see the clergy getting involved in the fight for life. Archbishop Julian Porteous, when an Auxiliary Bishop in Sydney would often lead the opening or closing days for the campaigns. Bishop Terry Brady, current Auxiliary of Sydney has also often been involved with 40 Days for Life. Both of these two Bishops have shown great courage in the face of the culture of death. 40 Days for Life is a campaign that takes a lot of time and effort to both organise and maintain.



The Day of the Unborn Child, held on the Sunday closest to the feast of the Annunciation, is something that FLI is committed to and will continue to be. Again it takes months of planning. Over the years the numbers have been fairly consistent ranging from 2,500 - 3,000 people in attendance. The Day of the Unborn Child procession has been led in the last six years by Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Archbishop Julian Porteous, Bishop Terry Brady and Maronite Eparchy Bishop Antoine Charbel Tarabay. We thank them all for their commitment to life.

We ran a conference this year in Albury. This was the second such conference that we have held since I started working full-time at FLI. The first of these conferences was held in January 2012. The DVD's of all the talks from the 2012 conference have now been loaded onto our website where you can watch them in full. All these talks still have great relevance today.

We have prepared, printed and distributed "Pro-Life Voting Guides" for every Federal and State election since I took over. These have been very popular and successful in helping many people,

understand the intricacies and nuances in making your vote count most effectively.

We have also given financial and material support to many mothers before and after their babies are born. The financial support over the last three years has significantly increased and has been **about \$85,000 with \$45,000 of that in the last year!** We ran a four city speaking tour with four speakers, Steve Mosher, Dr Deirdre Little, Dr Andrew Foong and myself in 2013.

We have been at the forefront of organising the legal defence of pro-lifers who have been arrested for testing the totalitarian “safe access” zone laws implemented in Tasmania, Victoria and the ACT. There are Bills before the NSW and Queensland Parliaments for similar laws. This will not only curtail the freedom of speech of pro-life Christians but effectively removes the Christian voice from the public domain. These laws must be defeated, however this has taken much time and effort.

I know some of you are already giving your most generous support to us and that some cannot give at this time due to your own financial obligations, but if all those who can help, were to send their most generous donation, I'm sure it would more than cover those who, at this time, cannot support us.

May God bless you all and please be assured of our ongoing prayers for all our supporters and your families. Be assured of our continuing commitment to the defence of the defenceless and life, faith and family.

Christmas Message

Christmas is drawing near, the season of Advent is here, a time to prepare for the coming of Our Lord. It is a time of great joy and hope for the coming of the Christ in the form of a child, here on earth to redeem us all. FLI would like to wish all our supporters and donors a very happy and blessed Christmas time. We are extremely grateful for all the support we receive from you all. Whether it is by your prayers, financial or physical support, it is all greatly appreciated. As you know Christmas is a time to joyfully reflect on all that we do, and Christmas is about sharing God's love with each other through the giving of gifts. FLI would like to share a gift that will keep on giving, our eternal thanks and prayers for you all. Your love and support is the greatest gift that the unborn who are faced with a horrible death could ever receive. They know no other form of love except for the love they receive from all of you. As Christmas is a time of hope, you should hold out in hope that when one day your time of judgement is upon you, that the little children that you prayed and sacrificed for, will be interceding on your behalf and will say to God, this soul loved me when no one else would. What a truly great Christmas gift.

All of us here at Family Life International, wish you a Holy and Blessed Christmas filled with love and joy in Christ! May God Bless you all!

Paul Hanrahan (Executive Director), David Bruggeman (Chairman of the Board), Michael Towke, Maria Menkens, Maria Scheller (Board of Directors) Glenn Hanrahan, Christie Hanrahan & Felicity Vieira (Staff)

Vigils

Join us in person, or by prayer as the Helpers of God's Precious Infants step up to the front lines in the battle for Life.

Sydney:

Tuesday 8:00am - 10:00am, Friday 8:00am - 10:00am, Saturday 8:00am - 10:00am.
120 Devonshire Street, Surry Hills.

Albury:

Thursday 9:00am - 5:00pm.
586 Englehardt St, Albury.
More at Melbourne, Townsville, Adelaide, Perth and Brisbane. Full details are at fli.org.au.

FLI Online Shop

FLI now have an online shop available for you to purchase, DVD's, Books & CD's. If you are looking for Christmas gift ideas then look no further than our online shop. The resources we have available are suited for anybody wishing to learn more about their faith and the pro-life movement and how to get involved actively. We can think of no better Christmas gift. So head over to <https://www.fli.org.au/shop/> and check out our range of products, and buy a gift that will keep on giving for a loved one. Alternatively give us a call on 02 9519 9111 and we'll help you out.

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