

# Bishop launches pro-life DVD

PARISHES, SCHOOLS AND PEOPLE of goodwill are being called to 'walk with love' with women facing unexpected pregnancy.

A new DVD resource, *Walking with Love: Alternatives and Responses to Abortion*, was launched on Friday 31 October by Melbourne Auxiliary Bishop Peter Elliott.

Filmed by SBS filmmaker Don Parham, the DVD tells the true stories of two women faced with unexpected pregnancies. Each woman chose a different path, because of the support – or lack of support – they received to continue their pregnancies.

Walking with Love project coordinator and executive producer of the DVD Angela Lecomber said the powerful stories of Nicolette and Bek, whose testimonies feature on the DVD, highlight the need for support for women who find themselves with an unplanned pregnancy. "It doesn't matter in what circumstance a woman finds herself pregnant, it's the support that counts," Ms Lecomber said.

Bishop Elliott congratulated all who had been involved in the production of the DVD and particularly thanked Bek and Nicolette. "It is appropriate that this DVD is being launched in Victoria, where we now have the most extreme pro-abortion laws in Australia," he said. "As never before, the Church must be strongly pro-woman in her ministry to



Bishop Peter Elliott, Nicolette, Executive Producer Angela Lecomber and Director Don Parham at the Walking With Love launch.

PHOTO: REBECCA COMINI

those facing an unexpected pregnancy or whose lives have been affected by abortion."

An initiative of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference Commission for Pastoral Life, the DVD is part of a comprehensive strategy to explore alternatives and pastoral responses to abortion. It follows the successful Walking with Love symposia, held in seven of the eight Australian capital cities since December 2007. The final symposium will be held in Canberra in December.

Following the stories of Nicolette and Bek is the teaching component of the DVD. This film has interviews with Darwin Bishop Eugene Hurley, Marcia

Riordan of the Melbourne Respect Life Office, Dr Brigid McKenna from the Sydney Life Office, Anne Neville, director of Open Doors Counselling, and Dr Theresa Burke, the founder of Rachel's Vineyard Ministries.

The DVD comes with an accompanying study guide that aims to help people come to understand ways in which they can support women who find themselves facing an unexpected pregnancy. A practical guide, which offers simple suggestions of what to say when approached by someone who is contemplating having an abortion, and 10 other downloadable documents can also be found on the DVD when played through a computer.

Ms Lecomber said the DVD resource would be distributed in the public domain in several ways. "The idea is for the Life offices in every capital city to own the resource and do their own promotions. People who attended the symposia have requested they be notified when the DVD is available, so they can start using it," she said.

It is hoped that schools will use the DVD and study guide, which provides lesson plans and can be used across school curricula. Ms Lecomber said the DVD was relevant to middle and senior secondary school students and tertiary students. ■

For more information, visit [www.walkingwithlove.org.au](http://www.walkingwithlove.org.au)



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