

## case for next issue

### Call for Responses

The case outlined below will be the basis for the In That Case section for the next issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*. We invite interested readers to provide commentaries for possible publication. Responses should be kept to approximately 500-700 words in length. The editorial board will select the responses to be published in the February 2004

issue of the *New Zealand Bioethics Journal*. We also reserve the right to edit contributions, to avoid repetition of points for example. All editorial changes will be cleared with the authors before going to press. Contributions can be sent by email or by posting a copy to the Editor. Please include your name, address and phone number with your response.

Helen is a 23-year-old woman referred to a gynaecologist (Dr Gregg) by her GP. Helen has decided that she does not wish to have children, and has requested that she be sterilised by tubal ligation surgery.

Helen has a history of depression, although she is currently well on medication. Helen has a significant family history of mental illness, with her mother, two aunts, and grandmother being affected. Helen does not want to be responsible for passing on a genetic predisposition to mental illness to a future generation.

Helen is currently in a stable relationship with her boyfriend Josh, who is 25. They have been together for two years, and use condoms for contraception. Helen is reluctant to use any form of hormonal contraception as she is afraid that this may exacerbate her depression. She is unable to tolerate an intrauterine device, including Mirena.

Dr Gregg is unwilling to perform the surgery as he considers sterilisation is a measure that is too extreme at Helen's age, and Helen may regret her decision.