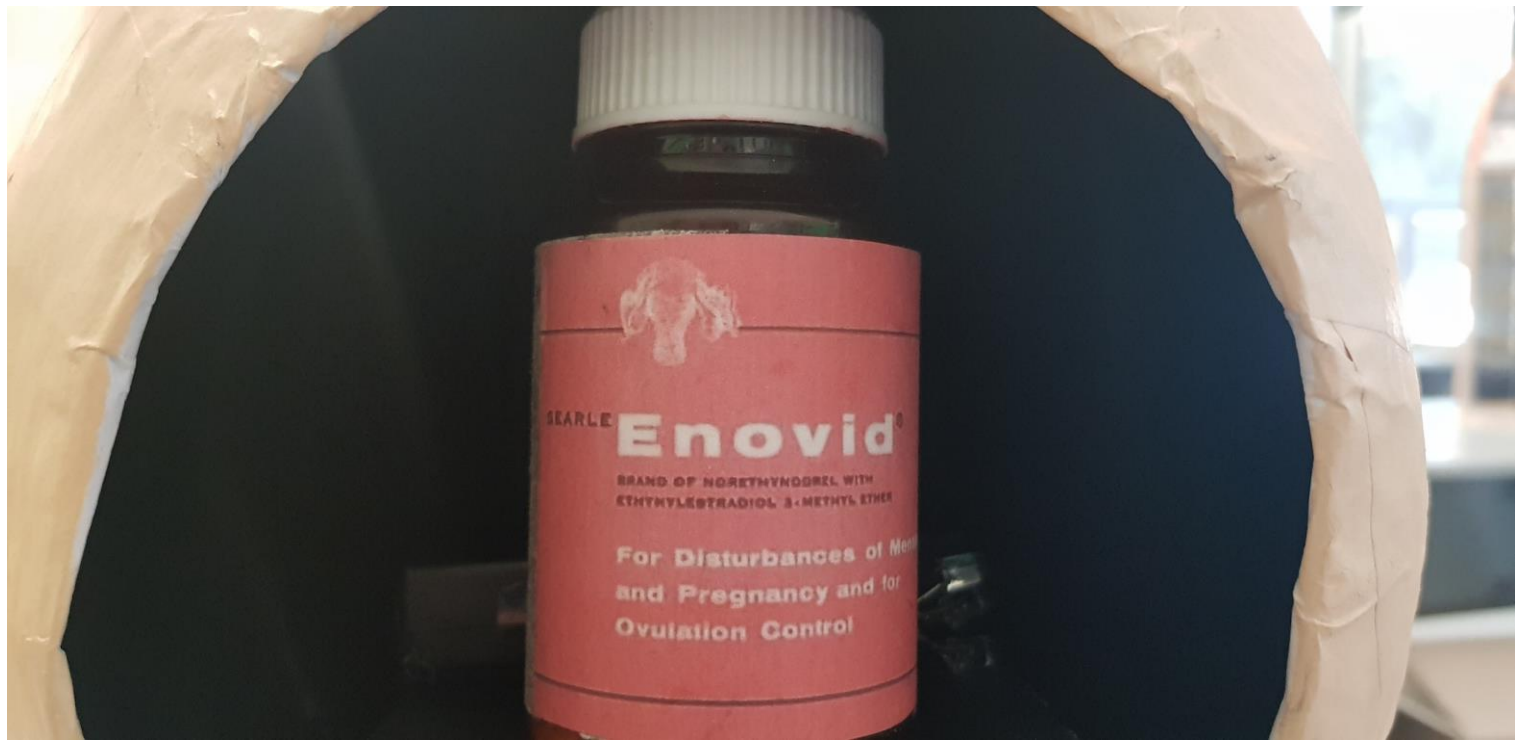


The Contraceptive Pill Time Line

- 1550 B.C - Early Contraceptives — Egyptian women receive information to mix dates, acacia and honey into a paste that prevents pregnancy.
- 15th Century — Chastity Belt — women start to wear chastity belts. Women whom wear these belts are kept pure as it physically prevents them from engaging in intercourse.
- 1844 — Rubber — mass production of rubber condoms.
- 1908 Religion — Lambeth Conference — calls upon all Christian people to discountenance the use of all artificial means of restriction as demoralising to character and hostile to national welfare.
- 1916 — First Family Planning Centre Opens — Margaret Sanger opens up the first clinic for family planning in Brooklyn. A few days later it is shut down.
- 1921 Birth Control League — Margaret Sanger starts the American Birth Control League, which becomes Planned Parenthood. She is also the woman who started the phrase "birth control"
- Prior to the 1930's all Christian denominations were united in their firm rejection of contraceptives. The Lambeth Conference of the C of E (1930) marks the first departure from this unanimous prohibition, by advocating the use of artificial contraception when abstinence was deemed impracticable.
- 1930 Religion — Catholic Pope Pius XI issued — birth control was a violation of the "law of god and nature" and those who used it committed "a deed which is shameful and intrinsically vicious."
- 1960 — TURNING POINT — "The Pill" FDA announces it's approval of Enovid in preventing pregnancy.
- 1961 National Council of Churches declared a liberal policy on contraceptive use, subject to mutual consent between couples.
- 1968 Pope Paul VI issued *Humane Vitae*, which banned all artificial methods of birth control.
- 1978 Pope John Paul II — "the natural regulation of fertility is morally correct; contraception is not morally correct"
- The pill today is taken by 3.5 million women in Australia between ages of 16 and 49.
- The pill comes in 32 different forms and is taken by 100million women world wide.





People and Power: Women's History: The Contraceptive Pill

February 1st 1961, marks the date in which Australian women were given the power to take control of their fertility for the first time in history. The contraceptive pill is a medication taken by women on a daily basis to avoid pregnancy, it's known to be one of the most simple and effective methods of reversible contraception. In the early 1900's, women were looked upon as reproductive organs first, and house-wives second. The contraceptive pill however, demolished this reputation by lifting the obligation for women to marry early because the contraceptive pill gave Australian women the power to become independent of their partner, without the burden of a child. With the aid of the pill, Australian women finally began to plan their own lives; they were given the power to save their lives, save their children's lives and to raise better educated and more prosperous families. Despite the overwhelming benefits of the pill, the Roman Catholic Church firmly opposed against the use of contraception as it had been associated with promiscuity and it wasn't the natural process that god ordered. In 1993 *The Economist*, listed the pill as one of the seven wonders of the modern world, as it has been strongly associated with strengthening the UN Millennial goal of gender equality. The image of the contraceptive is one of the icons of humanity and continues to persist in popular culture today.

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The Pill That Changed Everything

The Oral Contraceptive – better known simply as “The Pill” is a part of everyday life. The Pill is a revolutionary icon that represents Australian women's power and social advancement in the 1960's. Women's control over their reproductive future saw more women undergo professional degrees, control their family planning and participate in the labour market. However, despite the overwhelming benefits, the Roman Catholic Church firmly opposed these ideas, as it wasn't the natural process god ordered. Very few inventions have had such an impact upon Australian society or been as controversial. The ramifications of that are still reverberating today.

The Pill was released in Australia on the 1st February 1961 under the name Anovlar. It empowered Australian women and equipped them to make rational choices about their lives. The Pill helped them plan and build careers or keep their jobs (in 1962 employers could, without penalty, fire a woman who got pregnant.) Since wanted children are better cared for than unwanted children, it meant more kids were wanted and grew up healthy and supported. The Pill made it easier for a woman to delay having children until she established herself in a career. The marriage age increased in Australia and women were able to enter various professions and extend their education because of the pill. The Pill's release was also met with powerful enemies including political parties, activists, the number one being the catholic church. On July 29th 1968 Pope Paul VI issued “Humanae Vitae” (latin “Human Life”) which re-emphasised the church's teaching that it is always fundamentally wrong to use contraception to prevent new human beings from coming into existence. This statement disillusioned many devout married catholics. The pill remains among the most popular and safest forms of birth control. More than 200 million women have used the pill since it's introduction. The pill was more than a contraceptive it was a powerful symbol of Australian women's independence.

No woman can call herself free who does not
own and control her body.

No woman can call herself free until she can
choose consciously whether she will or will not
be a mother. (Margaret Sanger)