



**The Royal Australian
and New Zealand
College of
Obstetricians and
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Excellence in Women's Health

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12 April 2013

Ms Christine McDonald
Secretary
Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Ms McDonald

**Re: Inquiry into Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain
Types of Abortion) Bill 2013**

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RANZCOG) welcomes the opportunity to provide this submission to the Senate Committee on Finance and Public Administration in relation to the above inquiry. RANZCOG is the lead standards body in women's health for Australia and New Zealand, and has responsibility for postgraduate education, certification and continuing professional development in women's health.

Comments:

1. The College does not support termination of pregnancy for the reason of "family balancing" or "gender preference".
2. There are rare but important reasons for gender selection on medical grounds. These include (but not exclusively):
 - a) Rare serious genetic (X-linked) conditions where there is no other way of determining a possibly seriously affected child other than by gender
 - b) Other probable hereditary clinical disorders (phenotypes) that do not have a recognised genotype
e.g. parents that have two severely intellectually handicapped sons may elect for a female child in order to reduce risk of a severely intellectually handicapped offspring in their next pregnancy.

The College would be pleased to participate further in this inquiry as deemed appropriate by the Committee.

Yours Sincerely

Professor Michael Permezel
President RANZCOG