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Submission re:“Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013”

Following comments on Australian media current affair programmes it seems clear that most Australians would not approve of abortion obtained because of a particular gender of the infant, nor would they approve of Medicare funding for such abortions.

It seems that in some ethnic groups there is a powerful desire for a particular gender in infants, and abortion has been used to eliminate children of an unwanted gender.

World medical associations, indeed the UN , have expressed concern about the practice of offspring gender selection by abortion, hence sexual discrimination, and have devised disincentives for such practises.

Therefore in Australia we should follow international initiatives and follow local sentiment and ensure that Australian Medicare is used for therapeutic purposes only and NOT used to fund abortions that are gender selective for personal purposes.

Signed: Dr Tim Coyle.

