

Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

### **Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Sbortion) Bill 2013**

Dear Committee Members,

1. We maintain that Medicare funding ought to be about saving the lives of human beings. Such funding by the state should not therefore be available for deliberate abortions-ie the destruction of human life.

If in saving a pregnant mother's life a child dies this is not deliberate abortion. Care of mother and child ought to be covered by Medicare funding. Australian jurisdictions currently allow for abortion to take place for a number of reasons. One reason for an abortion that must not attract taxpayer funding is that of gender selection. It can be shown that such funding is encouraging families by order. The resulting human carnage based on a whim can never be justified.

An analysis of the Southern Cross Bioethics survey indicated that even of pro abortion respondents, a large percentage found gender selection abortion to be morally unacceptable.

2. Doctors are quoting cases of gender selection abortion requests from couples. One case is currently the subject of a Medical Board inquiry. Regardless of evidence of ethnic tendencies to practice barbaric gender selection being transferred to Australia, it is best to ensure that this culture is not encouraged or tolerated in our civilized nation. Medibank funding for this form of abortion would give the green light to migrants from societies where sex selection is preferred to the value of life-to introduce that culture here.

3. In 2011 The Herald Sun reported a case of parents with three sons aborting male twins. Their desire was to have a daughter. They wish to use gender selection IVF to enable the birth of a daughter. The twin boys were conceived with IVF. This form of 'family balancing' is brutal, selfish and unAustralian.

4. In its 2011 report the UN viewed gender selection as discrimination against girls. It condemned the practice as a violation of human rights.

5. The possibility of a boy/girl imbalance throughout the nations within the Council of Europe is now being investigated by the Council. No doubt the immorality of sex selection has hit a nerve.

6. Children are not items to satisfy a fad. They cannot be disposed of and replaced as though they are commodities belonging to parents. The state has a duty to guarantee to each Australian child, human dignity. It is your job as a committee charged with maintaining that human dignity to ensure that barbaric Medibank supported sex selection is never allowed to shame us all.

Yours faithfully

Brian and Judith Magree