

I do not think that there is any question that abortion to select against a child of a particular sex is almost universally condemned. Demographic evidence, from countries where the practice is prevalent, indicates that the babies most likely to be killed are girls. Our rhetoric about equal respect and rights for women is shown to be absolutely hypocritical if we in any way encourage such a practice in Australia.

Hence I strongly support this bill. I would prefer it to go further to ban the practice completely, however, this is a step in the right direction. My understanding is that there are no statistics collected as to the reasons for abortion in this country. To cite rhetoric once more, if abortion is to become “rare and safe”, then how can that goal be reached if we are not collecting data on the reasons for abortions? How can we deal with the causes if we do not know what they are? Hence I would urge senators to go further and make collecting of such data mandatory with any Medicare funded abortion.