

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

I support this bill intended to stop the funding of abortions on the basis of the gender of a foetus (unborn baby), for the following reasons:

- **Addresses inequities**

The bill implicitly de-normalises the practice of gender-based abortion in Australia.

Gender based abortions primarily kill unborn girls. This bill supports the value Australian culture gives to equality of opportunity for all, including an opportunity for life for unborn girls.

Removal of facilitation of gender based abortion by Medicare funding discourages the practice, and will give some unborn boy and girl babies the opportunity to come into the world.

Gender selection is not allowable in Victoria as a basis for IVF procedures, but is not controlled as a basis for abortion. The gender of the foetus or unborn baby is determinable at 12-13 weeks for reasonable accuracy, when the baby is fairly well formed. The bill establishes some comparability between IVF processes and abortion as it impacts the foetus or unborn baby.

- **Impact on culture of gender skewed demographics**

To the extent that the bill removes funding as a facilitation of gender based abortion, the bill will lessen the potential impact of gender distortion on coming generations of Australians, i.e. less chance of drifting towards the violence and exploitation of the reduced numbers of women currently being experienced in gender unbalanced regions and countries.

- **Allows Australia to comply with the directions proposed by the UN interagency statement entitled '*Preventing gender-biased sex selection*'**

The bill allows Australia to commence addressing the emerging practice of gender based abortion by ceasing to facilitate the practice by Medicare funding, consistent with directions recommended by UN agencies.