

Committee Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
Canberra ACT

29th April 2013

By email: fpa.sen@aph.gov.au

Dear Committee Secretary,

Submission on the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013

Women's Legal Services Australia (WLSA) is a national network of community legal centres specialising in women's legal issues. WLSA provides free legal advice, information, casework and education on legal issues to women across Australia.

Our network advocates for the full participation of women in the legal system especially those who have experienced disadvantage and more broadly the full participation of women in society. We seek to achieve this by incorporating women's experiences, especially about issues of family violence, the care of children and poverty in the development of new law and the amendment of existing laws.

WLSA supports and endorses the submission by Women's Legal Services NSW in their submission to the current inquiry. That is, we oppose the *Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013*. We support genuine efforts to prevent gender biased sex selection abortion when it occurs internationally, however, no evidence that we are aware of in Australia, nor the experience of our own client work, supports the need for this current legislation.

Yours faithfully,

~~Angela Lynch~~
WLSA
National Law Reform Coordinator