

Dear Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees,

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

We wish to make a submission to the Committees on the above mentioned Bill.

Terms of Reference

- 1. The unacceptability to Australians on the use of Medicare funding for the purpose of gender selection abortions.**

We wish to state our opposition to the principle of gender selection abortions and our opposition to the use of Medicare funds for this purpose and as taxpayers we should not have to fund gender selection abortions.

- 2. The prevalence of gender selection – with preference for a male child – amongst some ethnic groups present in Australia and the recourse to Medicare funded abortions to terminate female children.**

Countries that gender select due to cultural or social reasons have now found they have a huge imbalance with more boys than girls and this will have implications further down the years when these children come into marriageable age.

- 3. The use of Medicare funded gender-selection abortions for the purpose of family balancing.**

This is particularly abhorrent to us as a family!! We have 4 wonderful sons and would never agree to have terminated one because we 'wanted a girl'!! We are opposed to this use of Medicare funds for this purpose.

- 4. Support for campaigns by United Nations agencies to end the discriminatory practice of gender-selection through implementing disincentives for gender-selection abortions.**

The UN condemned sex selection abortion in a 2011 Report and we would consider that it is the responsibility of any government to protect all children regardless of their gender. It would be more useful for us as a nation to support any work of the UN to eliminate this abhorrent practice!

- 5. Concern from medical associations in the first world countries about the practice of gender-selection abortion, viz. Canada, USA, UK.**

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Society of Reproductive Medicine have all stated they oppose sex selection for family planning (balancing of choice) purposes. We also note that the British Medical Association has stated "the Association believes that it is normally unethical to terminate a pregnancy on the grounds of fetal sex alone except in cases of severe x-linked disorders." Canadian Medical Association has gone so far as to suggest that 'fetal sex not be disclosed until 30 weeks to reduce gender selection abortion.'

We can summarize that there are many Medical Associations around the world that are alarmed at this attempt to control sex selection purely for social or cultural reasons. We wish for you to note our concerns and not permit this Bill to be legislated into law in Australia.

Thank you,