
Life Network Australia supports the "Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013".

"Surveys have shown that Australians are strongly opposed to abortions for gender selection purposes and so, should not be required to pay for them, via our taxes.

<http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/n-436>

<http://www.examiner.com.au/story/1368072/we-dont-want-more-abortions/>

Results: Child gender selection -Should parents be given the legal right to choose the sex of their baby?

- **Yes** 17.75% (304 votes)
- **No** 82.25% (1409 votes)

Total votes: 1713 (From Adelaide Now poll): <http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/parents-want-right-to-choose-their-childs-gender/story-e6frea6u-1225983877669>

*The United Nations have identified that internationally, up to 200,000,000 girls are no longer alive, because they were girls. This discrimination against girls has no place in Australian society and a disincentive for such gender-selection would be to remove Medicare funding for these kinds of abortions.

<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/factsfigures.shtml>

There is also evidence that gender selection abortions are happening in Australia for family balancing purposes.

<http://www.adelaidenow.com.au/parents-want-right-to-choose-their-childs-gender/story-e6frea6u-1225983877669>

*Removing Medicare funding supports the United Nation's condemnation of gender selection abortions - as published in their 2011 report: "gender discrimination against girls and women and a violation of their human rights."

http://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/10665/44577/1/9789241501460_eng.pdf

*The following Australian medical associations have stated their opposition to gender selection and gender selection abortions:

The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians:

-Expressed concern that gender testing could result in more gender selection abortions

http://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/news/article.cfm?c_id=1&objectid=10577091

-Opposed the suggestion that gender selection abortions could be used for family balancing purposes

<http://www.smh.com.au/national/when-parents-select-babys-sex-20111015-1lq8b.html>

Australia - NHMRC

- Their guidelines for IVF prohibit gender selection: "Sex selection (by whatever means) should not be undertaken except to reduce the risk of transmission of a serious genetic condition".

<http://www.nhmrc.gov.au/health-ethics/australian-health-ethics-committee-ahec/assisted-reproductive-technology-art/assisted->

National Association of Specialist Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

Survey of their councillors showed that "no-one was in favour of social gender selection" and their proposal was to not reveal the gender of a baby until 20 weeks gestation. Refer to submission 1 -

http://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Committees?url=fapa_cte/health_insur_amend_bill_2013/submissions.htm

Other first world medical associations have also opposed gender selection, including:

American Association of Pro-life Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

<http://www.aaplog.org/get-involved/letters-to-members/unnatural-selection/>

American Society of Reproductive Medicine

<http://beta.congress.gov/bill/113th-congress/house-bill/447/text>

American College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists

http://www.acog.org/About_ACOG/News_Room/News_Releases/2007/ACOG_Opposes_Sex_Selection_for_Family_Planning_Purposes
http://www.acog.org/Resources_And_Publications/Committee_Opinions/Committee_on_Ethics/Sex_Selection

General Medical Council (U.K)

<http://www.gmc-uk.org/publications/12225.asp>

British Medical Association

(Item 1 ref 1.7) <http://bma.org.uk/practical-support-at-work/ethics/ethics-a-to-z>

Canadian Medical Association

<http://fullcomment.nationalpost.com/tag/sex-selective-abortion/>

Society of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists of Canada

<http://sogc.org/guidelines/statement-on-gender-selection-policy-statement-replaces-32-dec-1994/>

<http://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/story/2012/06/13/ultrasounds-entertainment-ban.html>

In Australia, there are currently there are no statistics kept on the reasons for abortion. This must also be addressed, in order to enforce the prevention and end of gender selection abortions in Australia. With careful consideration, this can be achieved without invading the privacy of individuals seeking abortions.

Life Network Australia urges the government and people of Australia to:

1. Respond urgently to the tragedy of gendercide both in Australia and the world.
2. Move to ensure that this discriminatory practice is exposed and comes to an end in Australia.
3. Support any BILL by any parliamentarian to stop Medicare funding of gender-selective abortions.

Sonja Couroupis

President

Life Network Australia