

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

SUBMISSION

Human Rights for the Unborn – Tasmania endorses the *Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013* on the following grounds:

- a termination carried out solely on the basis of gender is discriminatory;
- discrimination is at odds with the values of Australians as a society; and
- as such, Medicare funding of terminations on the basis of gender is an unethical use of taxpayer dollars.

We furthermore wish to express our support for any amendments that would widen the scope of this *Bill* to prohibit other forms of discrimination. In particular, we note the standard use of ultrasounds and amniocentesis to detect abnormalities in the foetus. This practice not only allows but encourages terminations on the basis of imperfection and discriminates against the disabled. It is eugenics pure and simple, and Medicare benefits should not be paid for terminations on this basis.

Human Rights for the Unborn – Tasmania also objects to discrimination against voiceless and vulnerable children and therefore condemns the Medicare funding of any terminations for any reason. Given that a child begins its life when it is conceived, and has his or her own unique DNA as an individual from this time, the killing of a child at the embryonic or foetal stage of development (abortion) is a grievous violation of a child's right to life and should never be sanctioned, let alone subsidised, by a democratically elected government.

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