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As long as Australia, like nearly every other developed country, continues supinely accepting the prevailing anti natal mentality currently dominating our society health costs will continue to be a problem. It's obvious that if a nation continues culling its next generation by 90 000 + abortions per year then the logical consequence will be a lack of future generations to support an increasingly ageing population. The term ageing population is simply another way of saying we are so bloody selfish that we will not only purposely frustrate our fertility through contraception but also will subsidize the deliberate destruction of the unborn. That is a major factor in our increasing inability to fund ever increasing health costs.

On a more mundane pragmatic level are the increasing costs of medical procedures due in a large part to escalating specialist fees. It is easy to blame greed for this, but one also wonders if a factor could be the increasing fear by the medical fraternity of being sued when a procedure goes wrong in what is fundamentally a risky procedure? Parliament should look more closely at curbing this increasing tendency for litigation without entirely removing some sort of compensation for those invalidated by 'mistakes'.

I recall many years ago how governments paid for student teachers tertiary education on the basis that they were then bonded to teach in the gov't schools for a certain number of years. They could always discharge that obligation by paying out the cost of their bond. I wonder would it not be possible to reintroduce a similar system of the gov't paying for the training of future doctors on the basis that they would be 'bonded' to work in the public or perhaps even private hospitals on a set income for a set period. This coupled with a curb on the litigation industry would help keep costs down and provide a decent income for our doctors without some of the outlandish incomes a number of them in private practice seem to consider normal. I'm reminded of the first specialist I saw regarding a hip operation. Apparently he was taking helicopter lessons to enable him to more easily commute between Perth and his vineyard operations at Margaret River. One doesn't like to criticise, but that lifestyle is being funded by income from private health funds which, are continuously having to increase their fees which then become so onerous that the gov't uses our money to subsidise the cost of health care. Meanwhile people not in a health fund pay nothing. Something is wrong and seriously needs review and changing.

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