

12 October 2005

RE: Health Legislation Amendment Bill 2005

Medicare should not fund late term abortions.

As shown by research conducted by the Southern Cross Institute of Bioethics:
(<http://www.bioethics.org.au/docs/givingchoice/ExecutiveSummary.pdf>)

64%-73% of Australians think the [current Australian] abortion rate is too high.
58% do not accept the "foetus is not a person" argument
... **fewer than 1 in 4 thinks abortion is morally justified.**
Only 15% believe abortion is morally acceptable when the foetus is healthy and there is no abnormal risk to the mother.

Given these statistics, the Australian Government would definitely not be representing the will of Australians if they agreed to allow Medicare to fund abortion, particularly late term abortions. To use Australian Tax Payers' money for the funding of abortion would be immoral given the above proven attitudes to abortion in Australia.

Medicare should be funding counselling prior to abortion.

The research conducted by the Southern Cross Institute of Bioethics shows:

78% believed women should have counselling.
Among those who are strongly pro-abortion 72% said counselling should be provided.

Yours sincerely

Rosina Gordon