The Secretary
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee
Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600.

Alison Murray

26th September, 2008

To Whom It May Concern,

I've been informed that there is currently an inquiry taking place in to the matter of Medicare funding for second trimester abortions.

I'd like to state that I don't believe this is an appropriate thing for Medicare to pay for as abortion is a very controversial issue which many Australian tax payers are strongly opposed to.

Also, even though the funding is apparently only available for "intrauterine fetal death, gross fetal abnormality or life threatening maternal disease", I'm concerned that the definitions of these things can be skewed. For instance, questions asked by Senators over the past few years have apparently confirmed that abortionists can interpret "gross fetal abnormality" to cover trivial abnormalities such as a missing finger, correctable disabilities such as cleft palate, and conditions quite compatible with a happy and fulfilled life such as short stature and Down syndrome.

Furthermore, "life-threatening maternal disease" is being interpreted by abortionists to justify a Medicare claim for abortions performed for "psycho-social" reasons – in effect, abortion on demand.

I feel strongly that abortion in the second trimester is a cruel, painful and violent act, as the baby is so well-developed by then, and not an appropriate thing for Medicare to enable.

I'm also really concerned for the health and well-being of the mothers. I know personally of women who suffer emotional and psychological pain for years after having an abortion, and I'm informed that recent research shows that abortion is associated with increased risk of suicide, depression and other adverse mental health outcomes. It also increases the risk of breast cancer (especially second trimester abortions) and of miscarriage and premature delivery of subsequent pregnancies.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my concerns about this issue.

Yours sincerely,

     Alison Murray