

*Catholic Women's League  
of  
Victoria & Wagga Wagga Inc.*

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132 Nicholson Street,  
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Committee Secretary,  
Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House,  
CANBERRA, ACT 2600

Dear Secretary,

Re: Inquiry into Item 16525 in Part 3 of Schedule 1 to the Health Insurance (General Medical Services Table) Regulations 2007

I write on behalf of our members to state that we fully support the Motion put by Senator Guy Barnett to stop Medicare payments for Item: 16525.

We fully support the creation of a separate item to cover only intrauterine fetal death.

In 2004, Catholic Women's League Australia Inc, of which we are a Member Organisation, wrote to the then Federal Health Minister, Mr. Tony Abbott to advise him that League members Australia wide objected to Medicare funding of Items No: 16525 and 35643. Unfortunately, Mr. Abbott was either unable or unwilling to bring this matter to the fore at that time.

While the number of services receiving payment under Item: 16525 may not seem to be high by comparison with other items, the fact is that \$157,250 could be put to better use to subsidise other vital medical treatment that is not covered by Medicare. We do not believe that anyone who is in the business of killing another human being deserves to be subsidised by tax payers' money.

The life of the mother is not a valid reason for second trimester abortion due to the rapid progress of medical technology. A baby born at 22 weeks is able to survive today. Abortionists are not mental health experts yet they seem to be able to diagnose mental health as a problem if the woman does not have an abortion. As has been proven by the majority of studies done on this issue, following an abortion a woman can suffer terrible mental health problems. This is why women hurt by their abortions are now speaking out.

We recommend that the Committee may like to talk to a few of these women and listen to their horrific experiences following abortions.

Having no standard definition for gross fetal abnormality (EUGENICS) provides the abortionists with a very easy option in pushing for an abortion. A recent report from the Down's Syndrome Research and Practice Journal states that the risk of terminating healthy babies after a positive test for Down's Syndrome is far higher than previously claimed.

The only effect of disallowing this item is that abortionists will be a few hundred dollars out of pocket. As it is a multi billion dollar business, I do not believe that they will miss a few dollars.

The majority of Australians have objected to funding Medicare second trimester abortions. The people have spoken.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Madge Fahy,  
General President

2/10/08