
Dear Senators,

This submission relates to the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

According to UN estimates, between 113 and 200 million girls are missing from the world today simply because they are female and not male (<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/factsfigures.shtml>). What is more incredible is that these UN figures only measure the dearth of girls due to them being the victims of infanticide (boys are preferred to girls) or have not received the same amount of food and medical attention as their brothers and fathers. They do not even include number of girls killed for being female whilst still in the womb by abortion. Perhaps this is because ultrasound technology to reliably determine the child's sex whilst still in the womb is relatively new. But what seems unquestionable is that the number killed by abortion will already dwarf the estimates above and be growing rapidly as ultrasound technology becomes more widely available throughout the world.

The United Nations condemned gender selected abortion in a 2011 report as "gender discrimination against girls and women and a violation of their human rights." (http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241501460_eng.pdf). We should be sending a strong message of support for this campaign in Australia by legislating to protect girl babies from being killed in the womb because of their sex. I urge you to recommend that this Bill is passed into law.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Mansel Rogerson