
To Whom It May Concern.

This submission is on behalf of Edward & Kathleen Ann Pitt relating to the availability of Medicare Funding for Gender Selective abortions, regardless of the reason.

We are **totally in support** of Senator John Madigan's Bill!

Australians are overwhelmingly opposed to the practice of "Gendercide." A recent Tasmanian Poll (Feb 2013) showed that 92% of those polled were against gender selection abortion.

The abortions performed for this reason have caused a huge im-balance of males to females world wide. Currently there are 34 million MORE males in China than there are females & there have been a staggering 336 million abortions in China over the past 40 years.

The practice of gender selction abortions was condemned in 2011 in a United Nations report as "Gender discrimination against all girls & women, & a violation of their human rights". It has been estimated that 160 million females, (more than 14 times the entire female population of Australia), have gone missing in Asia alone. This is mainly due to gender-selection abortion. Evidence shows that this is not limited to China alone, but gender-selection abortion has also been documented in the U.S.A, U.K, & Australia.

Due to the large ratio of male to female population & imbalance being experienced in many cultures & countries, renewed & concerted efforts are now needed by Governments & civil society, including efforts to address the deeply rooted gender discrimination against women & girls which lies at the heart of sex-selection.

There is much support for campaigns by United Nations agencies (including OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF, UN Women, & WHO), to end the discriminatory practice of gender selection through disincentives for gender selection abortion. Also much concern is being expressed from Medical Associations in 1st World Countries re the practice of gender selection abortions.

The UN estimate of as many as 200 million girls missing in the world today is due to the fact that for many, the perception is that women & girls are thought of as the "disposable gender". This outlook has created a rise in violence, sex trafficking & child abduction.

For the many reasons cited, it would seem ludicrous that Medicare funds, which are used in so many areas of need, should be going towards a practice such as this which it is clearly evident, is not only against the wishes of the majortiy of Auustralian citizens, but has caused major problems through the whole world.

We are against the practice of gender selection abortions, for Ethnic reasons or for Family balancing, & are totally opposed to the use (or rather MIS-use) of Medicare funds for this purpose.

Yours sincerely

Edward & Kathleen Ann Pitt.