

**Submission re Health Insurance Amendment Bill 2013 (Gender-based abortions)**

It has been reported that a couple in Victoria aborted twin boys because they wanted a girl, and that some ethnic groups in Australia use Medicare funding to support abortions of female babies. All human life should be valued, and the selfish practice of aborting babies because of personal, cultural, or family gender-preferences should not be supported by the Australian taxpayer. Aborting a child because it is a boy or a girl should not receive a Medicare benefit because it is not a procedure carried out for medical reasons. Australia should support the initiatives of those United Nations agencies that are trying to implement disincentives for abortions motivated by gender-selection.