

We wish to express that we believe the use of Medicare funding for sex selection abortion is totally unacceptable. This opinion appears to align with that of a large number of Australians, according to research.

A survey of Social Attitudes conducted by the School of Population Health Melbourne University Dec. 2010, reported that 80% of the 2,500 people surveyed disapproved of sex-selection abortions. See <http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/n-436>.

A further study undertaken by Adelaide Sexton Marketing, on behalf of Southern Cross Bioethics Institute, found that even among those surveyed who were pro-abortion, 82% believed that sex-selection should not be legal. (Ref. "Seeking an Australian Consensus on Abortion and Sex Education" St. Paul's Publications, 2007 Editors John Fleming PhD and Nicholas Tonti-Fillipini PhD,

The important consideration in this issue is gender discrimination and violation of the human rights of women and girls. The UN condemned sex-selection abortion in a 2011 Report of OHCHR, UNFPA, UNICEF UN and World Health Organisation. (See http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241501460_eng.pdf).

We are aware of the demographic problem China is now facing, as a result of sex -selection abortions which is related to their One Child Policy. They now are facing a shortage of women. This affects marriage and resultant births, and also deprives their society of the contribution of women, having eliminated their human rights, particularly their primary right – THE RIGHT TO EXIST. As always, one badly formed and appalling policy, creates drastic ramifications, and diminishes them as a society.

We do not wish to see Australia follow countries such as India and China in this abhorrent practice, We wish to retain our reputation of upholding human rights, the primary one being - the right to exist.

Thank you

Sincerely

Denis & Helen Bowman