

Submission to the Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees on their Inquiry re the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

From Mr and Mrs Bob and Margaret Lineage
23-4-13

We are opposed to the use of Medicare funding paying for gender-selective abortions. For a person/couple to choose to have an abortion for no other reason than them wanting a child of the other sex, is outrageous. Therefore, we support Senator John Madigan's proposed Bill to stop the use of Medicare funding for gender-selective abortions.

The unacceptability to Australians of the use of Medicare funding for the purpose of gender-selective abortions

Medicare funding is paid for by taxpayers whether they agree with abortion or not. Therefore funding should be administered with great wisdom. Making it viable to pay for gender-selective abortions is, over a period of time, going to seriously affect the birth figures of males and females, causing the figures to be very disproportionate. This has already happened in China and India, where the number of boys is millions more than the number of girls. This means that there simply will not be enough women when the men want to marry. India also has huge well-publicised problems with a culture of rape of females, some as young as pre-schoolers. Sex-selection is currently banned in Australia and should stay that way. Otherwise a "Pandora's box" is being opened.

It is not acceptable to Australians that gender-selective abortions be allowed. A poll conducted in Tasmania by Galaxy Polls in February 2013, found that 92% of respondents opposed abortion based on the sex of the child. And for young people between the ages and 16 and 24, the figure was even higher: 97%. These results show that gender-selection abortion is not morally acceptable.

In Australia, there are no statistics kept showing given reasons for an abortion. It is time that Australia began to keep such statistics, including the number each of males and females aborted.

Occurrence of gender-selective abortions for “family-balancing”.

There are people in Australia who wish to have gender-selective abortions for “family balancing”. This is a concern in other countries besides Australia. For example, in Canada, there is concern about immigrants using sex-selection abortions, and usually aborting females. Canadian MP, Mark Warawa has put forward a Bill to oppose gender-selection abortions. (CBC News, December 5th, 2011)

The United Nations have set up campaigns to end the practice of gender-selective abortions, as this is seen as very discriminatory. In a 2011 report, the UN condemned sex selection abortions:

(http://whqlibdoc.who.int/publications/2011/9789241501460_eng.pdf)

The United Nations also estimates that up to 200 million females are demographically missing worldwide:

(<http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/factsfigures.shtml>)

The Council of Europe, in a November 2011 resolution, has voiced its concern over the rising trend of prenatal gender selection.

According to Senator Madigan, five key UN agencies have condemned the practice of gender-selective abortion. They are: UNHCR; UNFPA; UNICEF; UN Women; and WHO.

In Australia, the Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians has expressed concern that the use of a gender test kit, could lead to sex selection abortions. (“When parents select baby’s sex”, Sydney Morning Herald, October 16th, 2011).

We can understand that families with, say, three boys, or three girls would hope the 4th child would be of the opposite sex. But there is a danger in opening this up to public choice. The evidence is available of what is happening in other countries in the world, where in most cases there is a huge loss of female children. With migrants from the Middle East and Asia in Australia, this would certainly be the case here.

Abortion is the greatest act of discrimination in the world today. The number of babies killed through abortion outweighs all people killed through all wars ever fought.

Yours sincerely,

Bob and Margaret Lineage