

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

We strongly oppose the principle of gender selection abortion and we strongly oppose the use of Medicare funds to pay for such abortions.

As Australian citizens we find the use of Medicare funding for the purpose of gender selection abortions to be an unjust reflection on Australian society. We are horrified that taxpayers would have to fund gender selection abortions. The poll recently conducted by Galaxy in Tasmania for *Emily's Voice* revealed that 92% of respondents opposed gender selection abortions. The poll also showed that 97% of young people aged 16-24 were opposed, a significant result considering 61% of respondents supported abortion.

We are concerned that there are no statistics available on the use of gender selection abortion to terminate of female children in Australia. We consider the disturbing gender imbalances in China and India favouring males, and the findings of the US National Academy of Sciences which report 'male-biased sex ratios' in some ethnic communities, attributed to sex selection (Source: <http://www.pnas.org/content/105/15/5681.full>). We encourage the committee to investigate this important issue further.

We strongly support the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013 as it will ensure that gender selection abortions are **not** eligible for Medicare payments.