

To whom it may concern,

I have just been notified of this particular submission to parliament which is why my submission is late. However as I work in the medical field closely with the patients who may be affected by this senate inquiry I kindly request you allow my late submission.

My name is _____ I am a medical sonographer who has been qualified since 2000. I work in general ultrasound performing among other studies obstetric ultrasounds at all gestational ages. With a particular interest in obstetrics. I am the only person at my branch of 3 sonographers who performs the 12 week nuchal translucency scan. I have noticed a change in patient attitude over the last few years with regards to gender determination. In particular certain ethnic groups appear to be desperate to know the gender of their child at earlier gestations. Many patients come in at 12 weeks to have a nuchal translucency examination and request to know the gender. The textbook we use (Rumak) states that gender determination is only at best 80% accurate at 12 weeks based on the direction the genital bud is pointing. However my anecdotal experience would suggest that other clinics who mention the gender to patients is a lot less accurate. Many patients presenting for their 20week scan have been incorrectly told the babies gender at the 12 week scan. (nb at our practice we do not mention gender at 12weeks)

If you also take into account the possibility of congenital malformations like hypospadias and ambiguous genitalia, budget pressures to scan faster and lots of young recruits, it would seem probable that patients are at a high risk of being told the incorrect gender at an ultrasound scan.

In the past this would not have been of great significance but with the growing number of migrant populations from countries like Afghanistan where Muslim patients see it as a blessing to have a boy child born first it is not surprising that the number of patients requesting abortion will be based purely on gender. Gendercide is an unacceptable violation of human rights.

Society has also changed people are talking more openly about how many abortions they have and the number of patients who have had at least one abortion is growing. Patients are having abortions later. My comments are based on my conversations with patients.

Late last year I scanned a young Afghan patient (there is a large number of afghan migrants in our area and the many are Muslim and wear head scarfs) The patient had a normal 20week ultrasound performed . During the scan the patients husband repeatedly asked the gender. I waited till I finished the morphology, to check the baby was normal and it was normal. The baby was most probably a girl. When I told the patient as I always do that ultrasound is not 100% accurate but that the baby was probably a girl, the young Afgan patient started to cry and wail she was inconsolable. The father had brought his mother and brother and a little boy into the room also to see the scan. The grandmother on hearing it was a girl child stormed out of the room and slammed the door. The uncle and son left also. The father told me his wife had bought the urine test kit from the chemist to determine gender . 3 times in the pregnancy they performed the gender test (approx \$90). I spoke to the chemist who showed me the box. These tests claim to be 90% accurate unless the patient has polycystic ovaries and then it drops to about 60%accuracy. Polycystic ovaries is quite common. The number of times you perform the test does not change the accuracy. My experience from performing this examination was complete dismay. I went home and cried. I have no doubt from the patients reaction that this healthy girl child will be aborted. The family did not support her and I

doubt she could give informed consent for the abortion as her English was limited, she relied on her husband and his family to interpret.

Should medicare fund gender selected abortion. No. It violates a womans right to give birth to a female baby. It should be illegal like in India, where gendercide continues to distort the population with an increase in male children born

About 6 weeks ago a colleague of mine performed a routine 20week obstetric ultrasound for fetal wellbeing. The examination was normal. The patient was upset during the scan and stated that she had been told at her 12 week ultrasound (elsewhere) that the baby was a boy. She had 2 daughters already and it suited her to have a 3rd daughter but she did not want a son. The following day an abortion clinic (I am not sure the name) rang to ask for confirmation of the babies gender because the woman scanned at our clinic wanted to abort her child based on gender. The changes to the Victorian law in 2008 means that it is legal to abort a child before 24weeks for any reason. Is this ethical? I don't think so. The ability to determine gender at 20weeks means that many patients will wait for the 18-20 week scan before finding out the gender hence more later abortions. It is not suprising that western women are selecting to terminate based on gender. We live in a society where many things are made to order including IVF babies. 60 minutes documented the fetal reduction being performed where multiple births are reduced so the patient can have only one child. Doctors playing God, have made our "modern" society think they have the right to choose who lives or who dies. Doctors like Prof David Ellwood have rallied to have the abortion law in some states like Victoria in 2008 to become so liberal that a child can be terminated for any reason up to 24 weeks and a child without parental consent can be marched to an abortion clinic to have these abortions. I have seen pimps coming in with their drugged up prostitutes for pregnancy ultrasound openly admitting they will lead them to the abortion clinic, I have seen aunties coming in with their underage pregnant nieces to march them to the abortion clinic. Who is protecting the females in society? The Victorian abortion law has failed women on so many levels.

The Victorian abortion law protects Pimps, peadophiles and now fools who think having a female child is unacceptable, until they want to find a wife for their sons.

Its time to make changes. Stop medicare funding for gender based abortion. Stop medicare funding for abortion.

Yours sincerely

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