

Peter Opie

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Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees
PO Box 6100,
Parliament House,
Canberra ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the inquiry on this important issue.

I have long been concerned that 'abortions of convenience' are able to be funded by Medicare (as opposed to those truly on medical grounds, i.e. significant physical or mental risk to the mother). Of all voluntary abortions, however, clearly the most objectionable is that performed solely because of the sex of the child. Aborting a child solely because it is a boy or a girl is NOT a medical procedure and should not receive a Medicare benefit. Termination of a foetus – in my opinion, a life ended – just to satisfy the personal wants of the parents for a particular gender mix in their family, is abhorrent. That such abortions are publicly funded through Medicare – in other words not only supported, but effectively encouraged, by the Federal Government, is even more abhorrent.

The impact on our society of such 'social engineering' could be significant. One has only to look at what occurs in China and India, where the (as usual) termination of girl babies has led to a massive shortage of girls. Given that this practice has also been reported in Australia amongst some ethnic groups, it is disturbing to think that such cultural bias against females could be allowed to occur, and even Government-funded, when such biases lead to gender violence, sex trafficking, child abduction, child abandonment, and women being viewed as an object, a commodity, a 'disposable gender'. Such attitudes and biases have no place in Australian culture or life.

I am strongly of the belief that unborn girls should not be devalued, dehumanised and discriminated against. Medicare benefits should be for needed health procedures, not wasted, squandered, misdirected, and spent irresponsibly on the killing of any unborn child – especially just because of their gender – for cultural or personal preference.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Opie