

## Submission to senate committee re:

### Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013

1. The unacceptability to Australians of the use of Medicare funding for the purpose of gender selection abortions;

While I understand that some women may feel they're unable to cope with having a severely deformed or disabled baby and may, therefore, decide to terminate, it is totally unacceptable to me that any woman should choose to terminate based on the fact that they "wanted a boy" or "wanted a girl" - and I certainly don't want my taxes spent funding procedures where a child is killed purely because she isn't a he.

2. The prevalence of gender selection - with preference for a male child - amongst some ethnic groups present in Australia and the recourse to Medicare funded abortions to terminate female children;

All we have to do is look overseas, and we can see the prevalence of sex selection abortion in India and China, where the disparity is obvious in the demographics - I believe the UN estimates around 200 million girls have been killed because of the parents preference for boys. Ethnic groups should be expected to abide by Australian laws - we should, therefore, not only have laws expressly forbidding sex selection abortion, but also should ensure that no medicare funding is allocated to allowing this to take place in Australia by ethnic groups present in Australia.

3. The use of Medicare funded gender-selection abortions for the purpose of 'family-balancing';

The use of medicare funds for sex selection abortion for any reason should be abhorrent to all Australians. No child should die simply because they're the "wrong" gender, and of course medicare must not cover the cost of abortion if this is the case. Australian law should reflect community values, and I believe males and females should be valued equally regardless of how many children a family has or their gender.

4. Support for campaigns by United Nations agencies to end the discriminatory practice of gender-selection through implementing disincentives for gender-selection abortions';

Of course Australian should support the United Nations in any effort to stamp out the practice of gendercide - I believe the Australian government should cease all government "aid" to countries where such "aid" is either directly or indirectly funds sex selection abortion.

5. Concern from medical associations in first world countries about the practice of gender-selection abortion, viz. Canada, USA, UK.

I can't really comment on concern from medical association in other countries regarding gendercide, other than to say that there are studies carried out in the USA and other places that have shown gender selection abortion is prevalent in many countries where abortion is legal. We should, therefore, lead the way, by ensuring no public funds are spent on gender selection abortion.