

23rd April 2013

To: **Senate Finance and Public Administration Committees**

Re: **Inquiry into Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013**

Dear Committee Members,

I am appalled at the practice of abortions performed in Australia on the basis of gender selection. This is an abhorrent practice that is completely inconsistent with the fundamental human right to freedom from unjust gender discrimination. As a taxpayer of this nation and a supporter of the Medicare system, I oppose any public health insurance rebates for medical procedures that violate this human right.

Therefore, I fully support the Amendment to the *Health Insurance Act 1973* made with the insertion of **Section 17A**, which will remove Medicare funding for terminations carried out solely because of the gender of the foetus.

I urge you and your fellow parliamentarians to vote in favour of this Bill to ensure that the legitimate system of Medicare benefits is not misused. A misuse of Medicare benefits is evident when they are payable for a medical procedure that violates a human right, and such a violation clearly occurs when a gender selective abortion is carried out. For this reason, the *Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013* should be passed to protect both the integrity of Medicare and the human right to gender equality.

Yours sincerely,

Paul McCormack