

**Submission in support of:**

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

I support the "Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013". My reasons for doing so are briefly summarized below.

1. I understand that doctors have disclosed (informally) that gender selection abortions *are* being performed in Australia (based on a preference for sons within some ethnic groups). As a result, Medicare funding is effectively being used to terminate the life of female babies. (And, surely, it is self-evident that Medicare funds are not intended to be spent on the killing of unborn girls - who should not be so devalued, dehumanised and discriminated against.)
2. Irrespective of the legality, a decision to abort a foetus based solely on its gender can never be justified as medically necessary and so should not receive a Medicare benefit.
3. Information available to me indicates that abortions are regularly performed in a number of countries solely because of the sex of the child, and mostly to get rid of unwanted female babies. (The United Nations estimates that this has now resulted in there having been as many as 200 million female babies aborted, with gender selected abortion being the major contributor to this figure.)

In Australia, we often pride ourselves as being forward thinkers, not held back by such "primitive" approaches, and championing gender equality. Therefore, we should not tolerate this practice being supported by Medicare benefits. Terminating a pregnancy purely for "family balancing" is horrific and repulsive, and should not be funded through Medicare.

4. Passing of this bill will indicate Australia's support of campaigns by United Nations agencies to end world-wide discriminatory practices of gender-selection through implementing disincentives for gender-selection abortions (so called "gendercide").