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

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a fifth generation Australian and I love this country with great passion and feel so blessed to live here and welcome newcomers to our great place. I would like to thank you for allowing me this democratic right to send in this submission to you.

Our Medicare system is one of the best in the world, and it is every Australian's right to free medical treatment, but not selective treatments like eg: plastic surgery etc. Selecting the gender of a child is a selective treatment not a health care matter at all, and should not be available to anyone and never funded by our Taxes.

We are able to see the dire situation that has occurred in Asia and India where sex selection abortion has caused a crisis that has no sign yet of even reversing:

- Gender-selective abortion is particularly prevalent in Asia, where over 160 million females are missing. http://www.unfpa.org/gender/docs/studies/summaries/regional_analysis.pdf

A baby is a blessing not a designer item and they come in all shapes and sizes and this is the privilege of being a parent all through the child's life, right through to their adult years. We are amazed by their growth, individuality, their own personality, their looks, their own uniqueness and this is the same with whether the child is a boy or girl. We cannot control everything and we can never fully control our children. This can be the burden and the blessing of parenthood.

Abortion should not be funded by Medicare as it sends a message to people that it must be a simple procedure, ignoring the emotional and/or physical harm many women suffer after abortion and often for the rest of their lives.

At least if people had to pay for the procedure they would think about it longer and as the Vic Law reform report said, a cooling off period prior to having an abortion actually decreases the number of abortions significantly.

Most importantly we have the example of the effects of Sex Selection abortion in Asia where most of those people have to pay for the procedure, we could be looking at a more dire situation if the procedure is funded.

As a human race we need to learn by our mistakes and if we can't see the damage that has occurred in Asia from Sex selection abortion, what have we learnt and where are we heading?

Thank you very much,

Loretta Coffey