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A few moments ago, due to the efforts of caring citizens of Australia, I became aware of the need to have a Bill passed in the Australian Parliament to prevent the use of Medicare funds for gender selective abortions. What am I going to learn of next in this, my country, of which I am becoming ashamed to say "my country". To need to pass a Bill to prevent this happening in Australia!!! Should we not know, as indeed we have known, that such a practice is anathema? If it is true, and I have no doubt it is, that we need such a Bill, then get on with it and pass it as soon as possible, so that perpetrators of this evil can be prosecuted and put behind bars. I am not over reacting. I am a woman. I have been principal of three Public Primary Schools in NSW, am now long retired, and am 82 years of age. I trained at Sydney Teachers' College, 1947-48, and subsequently took a Bachelor's, and an Honours Master's Degree, at Sydney University. When I graduated from Teachers' College, it was un-thought-of that women would one day become Primary School Principals, indeed, that women teachers would one day (was it in 1966?) receive equal pay.

I don't need to put forward arguments about the evils of the ghastly practice of gender selective abortion in other countries. The evils are self-evident, and they appear in countries where the value of the individual soul is not realized. Nor do I need to put forward any argument that the female of the race is as good as the male, I just need to say, listen, we (I) have shown that this is self-evident. Abortion for other than medical necessity is evil, and gender-selective abortion is worse than that, it is an utter abomination. Don't be afraid to say, "How low can we go?" Just make sure it doesn't happen here any more.

Gwenda Waddington