

I urge the committee to recommend that the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013 should be made law.

It is a sad indictment on our society that not only are 100,000 unborn babies killed annually in Australia by abortion; but that some are killed simply for being male or, in most cases, for being female.

Current surveys and polls of the Australian public consistently show very strong support for banning sex-selection abortion completely (<http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/n-436>) and this Bill at least partially reflects these views by disallowing government funding via Medicare for these abortions.

Amongst certain sections of the immigrant community, however, are very entrenched prejudices against girl children accompanied by the desire to kill them by abortion when possible. The following article is from the US, but there is no reason to think attitudes are any different within the same immigrant communities in Australia: <http://www.examiner.com/article/sex-selection-abortions-rampant-america>. Amazingly this study found that 89% of Asian-Indians chose abortion if they found out they were carrying baby girls!

It is evident that this practice is happening in Australia and is very widespread amongst certain communities. It is therefore necessary that the Australian government legislate in-line with the values of the vast majority of Australians to at least ban government funding via Medicare of sex-selection abortion.