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Dear Committee members,

Below is our submission to the Enquiry on the Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013.

We ask you to support this bill which aims to prevent government funding for abortions procured for sex-selection. Despite Greens Senator Richard Di Natale's comments in the press that he was not aware of any instances of sex-selection abortion in Australia, the practice is definitely occurring. It is well established in countries such as India and China

(<http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2011/nov/02/chinas-great-gender-crisis>), is already infiltrating Western countries (<http://afterabortion.org/2013/not-just-china-and-india-sex-selection-abortions-spreading-around-the-world/>), and there have even been recorded cases in Australia (<http://www.heraldsun.com.au/news/parents-want-right-to-choose-their-childs-gender/story-e6frf7jo-1225983877669>).

It is also very likely that Australia has an even higher incidence of sex-selection abortions than comparable Western countries because of its large Asian immigrant population.

Such a situation demands government intervention. Surveys show consistent support from the vast majority of Australians to outlaw the practice (<http://newsroom.melbourne.edu/news/n-4360>). This bill does not go so far, but at least restricts government funding.

We trust the committee will unreservedly support this bill.

Yours sincerely,

Jeremy and Rachel Hopwood