

Submission to the Senate Inquiry into Medicare funding of certain types of abortions.

Dear sirs and madams

I would begin by saying that I am opposed to funding by governments of social abortions in general, meaning abortions due to social reasons rather than abortions due to life threatening emergencies. By emergencies, I admit a lack of knowledge in terms of what apart from tubal pregnancies this might include. I am sure however that preferring a boy baby to a girl baby is not a life threatening emergency.

Today I would like to make a submission to your Inquiry explaining why this type of abortion should not be funded by governments.

Firstly, it is against the United Nations principle that gender discrimination is wrong at every stage of life and the various campaigns to encourage disincentives for sex selective abortions. The human rights statement made by the United Nations also discourages gender discrimination and the Australian government has signed this agreement.

Secondly, it is damaging to our community attitudes towards children and their best interests which does not make of children a tool for parental preference but an individual with rights. For this reason, the child is a gift to the parents and the community, not something to match a gender preference. Whether the preference for boys is due to culture or family balancing, this is not in agreement with Australian values and such abortions should not be funded. Therefore there is no benefit for individual rights and so the funding of these sort of abortions should stop.

Thirdly, it is no benefit to Australian society, to have skewed gender numbers as seen due to the one child policy in China where there are large imbalances and raids into neighbouring nations for those searching for a life partner. I have heard that the prevalence of sex selective abortions is quickly increasing and that this is a concern among medical organisations in a number of countries eg the United Kingdom, Canada and others. However, the interest of the Senate and our interest is Australia, and it is unjust to fund abortions based on a preference for a boy baby. There is not any benefit to the community of sex selection in families so the Medicare funding for these abortions must stop.

Finally, in a time of important choices about money, money from governments would be better spent on Family B funding as a personal choice that has educational and emotional benefits for children than on sex selective abortions.

Thank you for your attention