

Senate Inquiry Gender Selected Abortion Bill

I support Senator John Madigan's "Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Bill 2013"

I, along with 92% of people polled, (Galaxy Poll, Tasmania, 2013) find the use of Medicare funding for the purpose of gender selection abortions, 'gendercide,' completely unacceptable.

The prevalence around the world of gender selection, with preference for a male child is widespread. It is estimated that 160 million females have gone missing in Asia alone, due largely to gender-selective abortion. This practice is not limited to China and India; evidence of gender-selective abortion has also been documented in America, the United Kingdom and Australia. Unfortunately this scenario is rearing its ugly head in our country amongst ethnic groups and even among every day Australian families wishing to achieve 'gender balance'.

The United Nations condemned gender selected abortion in a 2011 report as "gender discrimination against girls and women and a violation of their human rights."

I would hope that in a wealthy, developed, moral and ethical country such as Australia, that we would not stoop to the lows of allowing funding of the gendercide of our own children, which in turn, promotes such gender discrimination.

Elizabeth Eckhardt