

SUBMISSION OF THE WILBERFORCE FOUNDATION IN RELATION TO THE HEALTH INSURANCE AMENDMENT (MEDICARE FUNDING FOR CERTAIN TYPES OF ABORTION) BILL 2013 (BILL).

INTRODUCTION

1. The Wilberforce Foundation proffers this submission in support of the Bill.
2. The Bill is in keeping with the ethos of the Wilberforce Foundation, namely the protection and enhancement of common law values, fundamental to which is the right to life.

THE OPERATIVE PROVISION

3. The operative provision is found in Schedule 1 to the Bill which seeks to insert into the *Health Insurance Act 1973* a new section 17A which states:
Medicare benefits not payable in respect of certain types of medically induced terminations
(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, or of any regulation made pursuant to this Act, a Medicare benefit is not payable in respect of a professional service if:
(a) the professional service involves a medical practitioner performing:
(i) a medically induced termination on a pregnant woman; or
(ii) a service that relates to or is connected with performing a medically induced termination on a pregnant woman; and
(b) the termination is carried out solely because of the gender of the foetus.

THE RATIONALE FOR THE BILL

4. "It is estimated that between 113 million and 200 million women are demographically "missing." They have been the victims of infanticide (boys are preferred to girls) or have not received the same amount of food and medical attention as their brothers and fathers."¹
5. There is evidence that gender selection abortion, which is equivalent to female infanticide, is occurring in Australia.²
6. There is no basis for such a practice in a nation which operates under the Rule of Law.

¹ International Women's Day 2007 Facts and Figures

http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/factsfigures.shtml?utm_source=CD+-+Stop+Medicare+Funding+of+Gendercide&utm_campaign=SSM+Parliamentary+Enquiries&utm_medium=email viewed 23 April 2013.

² Second Reading Speech of Senator Madigan

http://parlinfo.aph.gov.au/parlInfo/search/display/display.w3p;query=BillId_Phrase%3A%22s909%22%20DataSet%3Ahansardr,hansards%20Title%3A%22second%20reading%22;rec=0 viewed 23 April 2013.

Sex Selection Abortion and the Boomerang Effect of a Woman's Right to Choose: A Paradox of the Skeptics; Kohm, Lynne Marie 4 Wm. & Mary J. Women & L. 91 (1997-1998)

<http://heinonline.org/HOL/LandingPage?collection=journals&handle=hein.journals/wmjw4&div=7&id=&page=> viewed 23 April 2013.

CONCLUSION

7. The Wilberforce Foundation urges the Inquiry to support the Bill.

Dated 23 April 2013

The Wilberforce Foundation

Per: *F.C. Brohier*

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