

FAO the Senate Committee,

We are very pleased to hear that Senator Madigan of the Democratic Labor Party has recently introduced into the Senate a bill seeking to remove Medicare funding for abortions procured on the basis of gender selection and encourage the committee to recommend that this bill should be passed into law.

Our submission to the committee is that it is imperative that this heinous practice of killing a child if she is female (it is usually girls who are targeted) is stamped out in Australia. Removing Medicare funding, as Senator Madigan's bill seeks to do, is a good first step in this direction.

It cannot be doubted that this practice does occur in Australia and that Medicare funding is currently used for this purpose. The prevalence of the practice throughout Asia (as evidenced by the highly skewed birth rates) and the higher proportion of Asian immigrants we have in Australia compared with many other Western countries indicates that Australia has a particular problem. It is just that we don't measure it and so it goes unseen. But anecdotal evidence certainly does exist.

It is therefore imperative that the Federal Government takes a stand against this practice by denying Medicare funding for it - exactly as this bill proposes.

Yours faithfully,

Mr & Mrs Terry and Cheryl Young