

## Submission re Health Insurance (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion) Amendment Bill 2013

Dear Committee,

Thank you for allowing the opportunity to make a submission to your inquiry.

Abortion is often regarded as a divisive issue. Nonetheless, it cannot be denied that its practice has deep social ramifications. A report by the WA Health Department in May 2011 (Induced Abortions in WA 2006 - 2009) found the following:

1. In 2009, there were 8885 abortions in Western Australia which represents 22.3% of all pregnancies.
2. From 2006 - 2009, more than half of pregnancies in teenagers (15 - 19 years of age) ended in abortion.
3. Many abortions are carried out for suspected or identified disabilities.
4. Around 40 abortions annually are performed on babies of greater than 20 weeks' gestation.

The full report may be accessed at the following link:

[http://www.health.wa.gov.au/publications/documents/Abortion\\_Report\\_06-09.pdf](http://www.health.wa.gov.au/publications/documents/Abortion_Report_06-09.pdf)

The strength of a society is measured by how it treats its most weak and vulnerable. Children within the womb fall within this category. They do not have their own voice. Given the above statistics, they must be amongst the most at risk category of society in terms of the prospects of survival and life.

The Bill presently before you seeks to curtail, to some extent, this fact. On those grounds, I urge you to give your full and unequivocal support to the Bill.

Further, abortions performed solely because of the sex of the child cannot, within any ethical framework, be considered to be anything other than selfish and abhorrent. On what sensible basis can one sex be preferred over the other? It could be nothing less than a crass form of misogyny or misandry, indeed nothing less than an obvious discrimination based on sex. It certainly cannot be considered to be a "medical procedure" for which Medicare funding should be supplied.

I support the Bill and oppose any continued use of public funding to support abortion performed solely for the sex of the child.

Yours sincerely  
Warnar Spyker