



16 April 2013.

**The Senate Standing Committee on Finance and Public Administration
Legislation Committee**

**Inquiry into Health Insurance Amendment (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of
Abortion) Bill 2013**

I write on behalf of the doctors of *Medicine with Morality* in support of the proposed bill to
exclude gender selection abortion on the basis of gender alone from Medicare Benefits.

We are grateful that this very important matter is being discussed by the Legislation Committee
and for the opportunity to contribute.

We consider gender selection abortion *on the basis of gender alone* (**gender selection abortion** for
the rest of this document) to be a crime against humanity and should be regarded as such by the
laws of all countries.

Gender selection abortion is a crime against the child whose life is terminated, the child who is
sacrificed because of the choice of a parent.

Gender selection abortion is a crime against the next generation, upsetting the natural sex
balance in our world with all its societal consequences – and it seems likely on succeeding
generations also.

Gender selection abortion is discrimination on the basis of sex, with death of the child as the
result. Globally, this particularly means lethal discrimination against babies of female sex.

On the basis of these arguments **gender selection abortion** should be regarded as criminal, at the
very least illegal on the grounds of discrimination law, and the law of the land should reflect this.

With respect to the bill before the parliament the doctors of MWM argue that **gender selection
abortion** should not be supported or appear approved by the state. Medicare funding should be
disallowed for this at any and every stage of pregnancy.

Gender selection abortion is also a matter of justice for women. Women of various cultural backgrounds can be under pressure to only have a child of a particular sex and be subject to physical or mental abuse if she does not agree to abort in the circumstance of the child being of the wrong sex – most commonly female.

As a matter of justice for the mother as well as the child, withdrawal of Medicare funding would show the Australian community's disapproval of the procedure and give support to women subject to this pressure.

We must not fail in this. Failure to disallow Medicare funding for **gender selection abortion** would be a betrayal for children subject to this procedure, a betrayal of women subject to coercion and a passive endorsement that such abortion is legitimate and meets with government approval.

— /

Dr Lachlan Dunjey MBBS FRACGP DObstRCOG ph 0407 937 513
Dr John North MBBS FRACS
Dr Arthur Hartwig MBBS
Prof Kuruvilla George MBBS MPhil DPM FRCPsych FRANZCP
Dr John Francis MB BS FRACGP
Dr Felicity Wild MB BS
Dr Thalia Shuttleworth MB BS FRCSEd FRCOphth
Dr Wendy Bourke MBBS FRANZP
Dr Peter Coleman MBBS
Dr Luke McLindon MBBS FRACGP
Dr Robert Britten-Jones AO FRCS FRACS
Dr T J Middleton MBBS DipRACOG FRACGP
Dr Robert Claxton MBBS FRACS FRCS FRCSEd
Dr Alasdair Livingston MA BSc BMBCh FRCS
Dr Murray James-Wallace MBBS DRANZCOG DCH FRACGP DRM FACRRM John Masters
Dr William WARR MBBS FRACGP FASMF
Dr Brett Hurley MBBS
Dr Paul Wrigley MBBS MM PhD FANZCA FFPMANZCA
Dr Paul Neeskens MBBS
Dr Darryn Rennie MBBS FRACGP
Anna Dominguez Smith Medical Laboratory Technician
Mrs Terri Burton Nurse & Midwife
Mrs Jennifer Madden BPharm MPS MACP AACPA
Mrs Cynthia Daniel, BPharm

Killing must never be seen as a solution