

TO: Senate Finance and Public Administration Committee

**RE: Health Insurance (Medicare Funding for Certain Types of Abortion)
Amendment Bill 2013**

FROM: Dr Philippa Martyr,

DATE: 19 April 2013

Aborting a baby because of its sex is NOT a medical procedure. A person's sex is not a disease, and an unborn baby's sex is no different.

Medicare benefits should be paid for essential and necessary health procedures, not cosmetic or cultural ones.

Additionally, abortions that are performed solely because of the sex of the child are almost always targeted at female babies. Such deliberate and calculated femicide - for reasons which have no place in a free and democratic society - should never be funded by Australian taxpayers.

There is a huge demand for healthy babies for adoption in Australia by childless couples. It might be better to direct Medicare funding towards educating parents that there are good homes waiting to adopt an unwanted baby. The baby may not be up to their exacting standards or demands, but this 'substandard' baby with the 'wrong' sex can still be loved and raised by other parents.