

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.

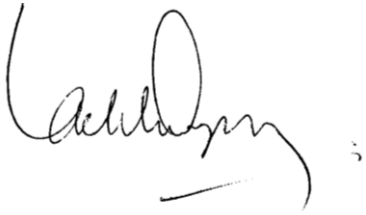
On the basis of these arguments **gender selection abortion** should be regarded as criminal, at the very least illegal on the grounds of discrimination law, and the law of the land should reflect this.

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.



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