Article type : Letters to the editor (comment)

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Title	The Guttmacher–Lancet Commission on sexual and reproductive health and rights: how does Australia measure up?
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Primary Keywords [Office use only]	Social Determinants of Health; Women's health; Medical genetics
Secondary keywords [Office use only]	Reproductive rights; Family planning; Prenatal diagnosis; Genetic testing
Notes:	

Article details (press ctrl – 9 to enter details):

Article type	Letter
Blurb	

Office use

<i>Ms. Number</i>	mja19.00350
<i>Medical editor</i>	Zoe Silverstone
<i>Medical editor email</i>	zsilverstone@mja.com.au
<i>Structural editor</i>	Laura Teruel
<i>Structural editor email</i>	lteruel@mja.com.au
<i>Section/Category</i>	Letters to the editor (comment)
<i>Strapheading</i>	Letter
<i>Substrap</i>	

Wiley – file data:

Filename for copyediting	mas_mja19.00350_ms.docx
Accompanying graphics	None
Stock images	None
Appendices	None

Office use – history:

Event	Date
Original submission received	15/04/2019

Event	Date
Accept	23/04/2019

Proof sent to author	
Proof returned by author	
Published (date format xx/xx/xx)	21/10/19
Issue	8
Vol	211
DOI	10.5694/mja19.00350
Journal	The Medical Journal of Australia
Original article DOI (for response)	

The Guttmacher–*Lancet* Commission on sexual and reproductive health and rights: how does Australia measure up?

TO THE EDITOR: The authors of a recent Guttmacher–*Lancet* Commission article¹ point out that Australia is a signatory to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, which nominate sexual and reproductive health as rights. The key focus of the article on the Guttmacher–*Lancet* Commission is around human immunodeficiency virus and sexually transmitted infections, unintended pregnancy, contraception, abortion, and sexual violence.¹ These are all important reproductive health rights to address. While the Guttmacher–*Lancet* Commission also includes maternal and newborn health, there is no mention of reproductive carrier screening. Reproductive carrier screening involves testing prospective parents — before pregnancy, ideally, or in the early stage of pregnancy — for carrier status for autosomal recessive and X-linked recessive disorders, and giving reproductive choices to people at increased risk of having an affected child. These choices include pre-implantation genetic diagnosis, prenatal diagnosis by chorionic villus sampling or amniocentesis, donor gametes or embryos, adoption, having no children, or ignoring the risks. Most couples with or at risk of having an affected child have no family history, which is typical for recessively inherited diseases. Reproductive carrier screening is available in Australia, although only through a fee-for-service mechanism, but most couples are unaware of its availability. Currently, screening for cystic fibrosis, fragile X syndrome, and spinal muscular atrophy is available,² and in the future we may be able to screen for a vastly expanded number of diseases. The Royal Australian and New Zealand College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists has recently released a position statement to recommend that all women, either before pregnancy or in the first trimester, should be offered carrier screening for inherited conditions.³ Reproductive carrier screening should be a routine part of pregnancy care and should be considered a health care right.

Competing interests: No relevant disclosures.

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doi: 10.5694/mja19.00350

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Title:

The Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on sexual and reproductive health and rights: how does Australia measure up?

Date:

2019-09-27

Citation:

Massie, R. J. & Delatycki, M. B. (2019). The Guttmacher-Lancet Commission on sexual and reproductive health and rights: how does Australia measure up?. MEDICAL JOURNAL OF AUSTRALIA, 211 (8), pp.381-+. <https://doi.org/10.5694/mja2.50350>.

Persistent Link:

<http://hdl.handle.net/11343/286442>