

## PROLIFE FACTS

Since February 2010, the Ministry of Health has implemented a programme to offer all pregnant women genetic testing for foetal abnormality. Parents can be understandably distressed if results indicate that their unborn baby could have an abnormality and can be vulnerable to pressure from medical professionals.

Back in 2007, the then Minister for Health Pete Hodgson, acknowledged that overseas experience revealed that 90% of such pregnancies were aborted.

It is not widely known, even by medical professionals, but a number of studies reveal that women who decide to abort their babies because of suspected foetal abnormality, suffer grievously from guilt and loss.

“Couples, health-care providers, family and friends underestimated the intensity and duration of loss following selective termination.”

*(Sandelowski and Barroso: "The Travesty of Choosing After Positive Prenatal Diagnosis".)*

It is not uncommon for parents to experience the same level of trauma after experiencing selective abortion as those who lose babies after birth. Genetic testing is described by the Ministry as “quality improvement”.

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