

SOUTH CHINA MORNING POST
8 NOV 1992

Abortion at a price

THE regulations on abortion in Hongkong are being openly flouted in back street clinics. So much so that, while 22,000 legal operations are carried out each year, it is estimated the same number again occur in a murky, unregulated private market where money is the over-riding criteria that decides the treatment of a case.

Seeking an abortion is one of the most traumatic experiences of any woman's life. The least they should be able to expect is independent counselling, and the knowledge that both their mental and physical well-being will be taken into account both before and after such an operation.

None of this is catered for in the brutally stark Offences Against the Persons ordinance where it deals with abortion and "child destruction". It is time both this bill and the way in which the regulations are applied were given a rigorous review.