

SUBMISSION OF CAROLINE CHISHOLM CENTRE for HEALTH ETHICS,  
EAST MELBOURNE

to the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE on  
LEGAL and CONSTITUTIONAL AFFAIRS REVIEW of AHEC's REPORT on  
*SCIENTIFIC, ETHICAL AND REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS RELEVANT TO  
THE CLONING OF HUMAN BEINGS and its RELEVANCE TO THE  
PROVISIONS OF THE GENE TECHNOLOGY BILL 2000*

1. I urge that the provisions of the *Gene Technology Bill 2000* exclude the use of human embryos and of embryonic stem (ES) cells derived from human embryos or from cloned human embryos (formed by nuclear transfer) from all its relevant GMO dealings.

Likewise to be excluded would be any hybrid organism formed by the fusion of a human and a non-human gamete.

2. The definition of 'organism' should exclude what is contained in 1 above, i.e. human embryos and of embryonic stem (ES) cells derived from embryos or from cloned human embryos (formed by nuclear transfer). This is to ensure they are excluded from all its relevant GMO dealings. Likewise to be excluded would be any hybrid organism formed by the fusion of a human and a non-human gamete.

3 I believe a definition of a human embryo will be necessary to know what is excluded, and I suggest the following: *a living single-cell, or multicellular, organism which has the inherent **actual potential** to continue species specific, i.e. typical, human development, given a suitable environment.* This implies typical development must begin. An embryonic tumour or a teratoma are not embryos because they are not organisms with the requisite *actual potential to continue species specific human development.*

4 The scientific and ethics committees established under the *Gene Technology Bill 2000* should not be deliberating on what is referred to in No. 1 and 2 above.

Trusting this brief submission may be of assistance in your deliberations,

Yours sincerely,

Rev Dr Norman Ford SDB  
Director

14 September 2000