

**SECOND SUPPLEMENTARY SUBMISSION after the INQUIRY HEARING in
MELBOURNE on 1 March 2000,
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**

I. Since the Melbourne hearing of the Inquiry and my first supplementary submission I have had an opportunity to read the submission of the Archdiocese of Melbourne and of the Australian Catholic Bishops' Conference. I have also had occasion to learn of the reasons in support of the positions adopted in these submissions. I agree with the Bishops' stand that culturing ES cells represents continued unethical collusion with the destruction of the embryos (blastocysts) from which they were taken.

II It is anomalous that reproductive research that would be against an Australian State's law or the NHMRC *Ethical guidelines on assisted reproductive technology* can be done by Australian scientists, or have it done by others, overseas and the results of that research imported to this country. It seems the Committee should recommend to the Commonwealth and all Australian States and Territories to impose a legal ban on all destructive research on all human embryos, be they IVF or cloned, and a ban on the import or the use of products of such destructive research. Furthermore I urge the Committee to request the NHMRC tighten its guidelines on reproductive technology to exclude the same destructive research on all human embryos, be they IVF or cloned. *Australia's National Statement on the Conduct of Research in Humans* requires State law to be observed in this respect, and for the rest recommends the NHMRC Guidelines be consulted. With regard to Australians doing research overseas it simply states in paragraph 1.21:

Where research is conducted in an overseas country under the aegis of an Australian institution or organisation, the research must comply with the requirements of this Statement as well as the laws and guidelines of that country.

This could be amended to include compliance with the NHMRC's Ethical guidelines on assisted reproductive technology both in Australia and overseas. Furthermore research commenced by others overseas contrary to laws in Australia or the NHMRC Ethical Guidelines should not be permitted to continue in Australia.

Rev Dr Norman Ford SDB - 28-4-2000
Director