

Daniel and Jenny Garrard
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NGUNNAWAL ACT 2913

The Secretary
House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

RE: Submissions on Human Cloning Experiments

We are opposed to any attempt to clone humans. As parents of a 6 month old son, we marvel at him being a little bit of Dad, and a little bit of Mum, but distinctly himself. He has his own character and temperament, and as Christians, we would say his own spirit – a belief held by most deistic religions. We believe that unlike animals, humans are given a soul and spirit on conception. People are far more complex than a series of chemical and physical reactions. How can a spirit be cloned? How can man play God?

Apart from our religious and moral convictions, there are a number of practical reasons for our opposition to cloning experiments. We fear the potential horror stories that may arise. Could genetic mutations arise when processes go wrong? Experiments of such complexity rarely work first time. Can the genetic integrity of clones be guaranteed? Would they have complete reproductive capabilities? Can we be assured they would grow and develop normally?

Then there is the question of where and how cloned humans would fit in society. Although the first few may be celebrated as a triumph of modern technology, we worry that being a clone would develop a stigma creating a subclass of outcasts. We doubt the bigoted populus could ever accept a clone as their equal, far less a superior.

Technology of this nature cannot be controlled. Undoubtedly it would eventually find it's way into the hands of those with less than honourable intentions. What an insult to the human race to develop technology with which an entire army could be created for the sole purpose of destruction.

In summary we believe human cloning experiments are an attempt to play God, fraught with danger, and if successful could only have a negative impact on humanity as a whole.

Please regard this as two submissions, as it represents the combined thoughts of us both.

Yours sincerely

Daniel and Jenny Garrard