

## VICTORIAN SCIENTIFIC LEADERS FORUM ON STEM CELL RESEARCH

### POSITION IN RESPONSE TO THE LOCKHART REVIEW OF HUMAN CLONING AND EMBRYO RESEARCH LEGISLATION

We affirm:

- that the Lockhart Committee Review of Australia's *Prohibition of Human Cloning Act 2002* and *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002* (the Lockhart Review) resulted in a comprehensive, balanced and well considered report;
- our continued opposition to reproductive cloning;
- that embryonic and adult stem cell research should be pursued as complementary avenues of investigation that hold promise for a better understanding of developmental processes, disease, assisted reproductive technology and stem cell-based human therapeutics;
- there have been great advances in embryonic stem cell research in recent years and that sufficient evidence exists in animal models to justify the adoption of recommendations from the Lockhart Review to enable the pursuit of this work in human systems;
- our support for the maintenance of an appropriate and transparent regulatory, licensing and monitoring regime;
- our support for the freedom for Australian scientists to conduct somatic cell nuclear transfer under the regulatory regime suggested by the Lockhart Review;
- our support for the establishment and development of a national stem cell bank;
- our support for a nationally consistent legislative framework. However if that is not possible at this time we believe that the recommendations of the Lockhart Review are of such great importance that States and Territories should, if necessary, take additional steps to enable this research to proceed in as far as it is able in their respective jurisdictions;
- our support for the conduct of a review after three years after the passage of legislative amendments to assess technological and scientific advances and any changes in community attitudes and to recommend any required changes. The composition of an independent review committee, terms of reference and the process of the review should again require the consent of the Commonwealth, State and Territory Governments; and
- legislative amendments to implement the recommendations of the Lockhart Review are critical to the future of stem cell research in this country and, more importantly, to the development of new diagnostic tools and treatments for serious diseases.



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Sir Gustav Nossal  
Chair, Victorian Scientific Leaders Forum on Stem Cell Research

*Record of attendance at Forum*

Professor Claude Bernard, Monash Immunology & Stem Cell Laboratories

Assoc. Professor Richard Boyd, Monash University

Professor Edwina Cornish, Monash University

Assoc. Professor Andrew Elefanty, Monash Immunology & Stem Cell Laboratories

Professor Jock Findlay; Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research (abstained from voting due to conflict of interest)

Dr Elizabeth Finkel, Cosmos Magazine

Dr Nicholas Gough, Nick Gough and Associates Pty Ltd

Assoc. Professor David Haylock, Australian Stem Cell Centre

Reverend Colin Honey; Uniting Church Minister and Lonsdale Centre for Applied Ethics

Professor Graham Jenkin, Monash Immunology & Stem Cell Laboratories

Professor Trevor Kilpatrick, Howard Florey Institute, The University of Melbourne

Dr Anna Lavelle, AusBiotech Ltd

Professor Stephen Livesey, Australian Stem Cell Centre

Dr John McBain, Melbourne IVF

Dr Graham Mitchell AO, Foursight Associates Pty Ltd

Dr Peter Mountford, Stem Cell Sciences Australia Ltd

Dr Megan Munsie, Stem Cell Sciences Australia Ltd

Dr Naoki Nakayama, Australian Stem Cell Centre

Mr David Newton, Stem Cell Sciences Australia Ltd

Professor Nick Nicola, The Walter & Eliza Hall Institute of Medical Research

Assoc. Professor Susie Nilsson, Australian Stem Cell Centre

Sir Gustav Nossal AC CBE, Foursight Associates Pty Ltd

Dr Justin Oakley, School of Philosophy and Bioethics

Professor David Penington AC, Foursight Associates Pty Ltd

Dr Teija Peura, Sydney IVF

Professor Peter Rathjen, The University of Melbourne

Professor Joe Sambrook, Australian Stem Cell Centre

Ms Michelle Singe, Australian Stem Cell Centre

Professor Loane Skene, The University of Melbourne

Dr Ed Stanley, Monash Immunology and Stem Cell Laboratories

Professor Ban-Hock Toh, Monash Medical School

Professor Alan Trounson, Monash Immunology & Stem Cell Laboratories and Australian Stem Cell Centre

Dr Paul Verma, Monash Institute of Medical Research

Professor Bryan Williams, Monash Institute of Medical Research

Professor Bob Williamson AO, The University of Melbourne