

PROHIBITION OF HUMAN CLONING

I would strongly urge the Australian Government to maintain current legislation regarding human cloning for the following reasons

- Since cloning creates a living embryo, if that embryo is to be created for scientific purposes and if the intention is that it should then be destroyed, I believe there is a clear moral issue. Life should not be created for the purposes of being destroyed. It would be consistent to then argue that it is acceptable for a baby to be born, used for scientific purposes and then killed.
- Whether or not scientific research is at stake it must remain clear that all cloning, no matter what terminology is used, is the process of creating living embryo. Just by using terms like Somatic Cell Nuclear Transfer does not remove the reality.
- The harvesting of large numbers of human eggs per clone and thus commercializing a woman's ovary is risky to health and in itself is ethically questionable.
- I can't see that there have been any changes to the arguments since the Federal Parliament wisely and unanimously banned human cloning in 2002. If it was wrong in 2002 it is still wrong in 2006/7
- Scientific and medical research has been using adult stem cells in the treatment of many different conditions. Despite the ideologically driven hype embryonic stem cells have not been shown to provide a reliable or a clearly preferable source.
- There is a huge moral argument when one seeks to justify human or animal cloning or even to open the door to it. In my view it is neither warranted nor necessary, therefore why open the door.
- Cloning is wrong; cloning is unnecessary. Let us lead the world in stem cell research that is both effective and ethical – research we can all live with.