

3rd October, 2006

Legislative responses to recommendations of the Lockhart Review Committee
Community Affairs Committee
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee,

As specialist medical practitioner, I have considered the issue of therapeutic cloning with concerned interest.

A basic tenet of medical practice is to do no harm. Research directed towards therapeutic cloning results in the destruction of human embryos. It contravenes the most basic medical ethic.

A further major concern is that the result of destructive human Embryonic stem cell research to date has been fruitless. I wonder why, in the face of such a poor outcome and the deep concern among many members of the community, both medical and lay people regarding the utilitarian ethics, a small number of scientists (with a vested interest) are obsessed with cloning.

Clearly, for both good ethical and scientific reasons adult stem cell research is demonstrably the path to medical progress.

Please retain the ban on human cloning and please discontinue destructive human embryo stem cell research.

Yours faithfully,

David M. Gawler MB BS (Melb) FRACS FRSC