

October 4, 2006

Dear Senate Community Affairs Committee,

As a medical doctor I have followed the debate on the use of stem cells, both adult and embryonic. I have an understanding of the medical and scientific arguments for and against these technologies. I have seen no further scientific evidence since the Research Involving Embryos Act 2002 that would warrant a change in legislative intention.

The only significant matter that has come to pass has been the discrediting of the research by Professor Hwang Woo-suk of South Korea – research much hailed at the time. Whilst his research has been proved as fraudulent, perhaps one of the most worrying aspects for me was the source of the ova – coerced from his own staff.

As a female and doctor, I can only surmise that embryonic stem cell research is being pursued with clear disregard for basic ethical considerations.

The conclusion should be that no change in legislation is required.

Yours sincerely,

DR BELINDA GOODWIN MBBS