

Elton Humphery  
Committee Secretary  
Community Affairs Committee  
Department of the Senate  
Parliament House Canberra

Dear Sir

This submission is written to express our bitter disappointment with some of the recommendations of the Lochart Review, in particular the recommendation proposing the creation of human embryos for stem cell research.

The cloning of human embryos for research, and ultimate destruction, puts these embryos on a par with laboratory rats and is a legal and moral travesty. The protection of embryonic human beings should be the base from which all human life protections flow.

The idea that we can create a new life, then destroy it, supposedly to benefit other human beings, is cruel and unjust. It is a denial of the natural law and natural justice.

Supplementary to the above is the fact that there are no recorded cures from the considerable embryonic stem cell research undertaken to date.

This driven pursuit of these inhuman, so-called scientific experiments flies in the face of the wonderful medical successes being achieved through adult stem cell treatments. There are dozens of cases where patients have been successfully treated with stem cells from cord blood or from their own body.

Adult stem cell treatments are producing excellent results and are free of any ethical problems. Why pursue embryonic stem cell research when it is well known that there is a significant risk of tumour formation in this process?

What is most horrifying is the recommendation advocating the production of animal/human hybrid embryos! If human eggs are sought for this procedure there is the possibility of Ovarian Hyperstimulation Syndrome. Serious cases of this syndrome involve the development of many cysts, enlargement of the ovaries and massive fluid build-up in the body.

Your report to the Senate may have a profound effect on the 'conscience' vote and it is therefore vital that you put the welfare of the human species before the interests of certain sections of the scientific and pharmaceutical industries who would take our society further down 'the slippery slope'.

Desmond & Josephine Kenneally

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