

Committee Secretary,
Senate Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate

Re: Cloning of Human Embryos, either for Therapeutic or Reproductive Purposes

I want to register my disapproval and complete opposition to the cloning of human embryos, either for therapeutic or reproductive purposes. I don't see any reason as sufficient to delve into this most dangerous and worrying area of creating a living human baby for research or reproduction. It is both unethical and crosses a moral line which shouldn't be crossed. Cures and treatments are already being found using ADULT stem cells. Other than the lure of the dollars, I don't know why consideration would be even given to this line of thinking.

I believe Senator Stott Despoja's Bill actually allows for the use of animal eggs to create animal-human hybrids against the advice of Australia's Chief Scientist, Jim Peacock. Even Ms Stott Despoja herself said this was "a radical agenda, unsupported by proof of principle research." She went on to say (at the 2nd Aust. Stem Cell Centre Annual Scientific Conference in 2004) "When the topic is so sensitive, there should be plenty of evidence to support going down this path. That evidence doesn't exist. NO expert can even tell us how many eggs and how many embryos will be needed."

Seeing there has been no new developments in this area and the Lockhart Review relied on a Korean scientist's research which was later shown to be FALSE, why has she now changed her mind? It is just as contemptible, and unethical a proposition now as it was then.

Please help keep experimentation on living beings in the "off limits" basket. We pride ourselves on being more humane than the Nazis were. This being on the agenda as it is, proves we are not quite so sure... what an indictment this is on the state of our consciences, and sense of morality!

As my representative in the government, I ask that you consider the implications of what you decide. Young lives (and maybe in time, older ones) do indeed depend on it. Once experiments begin on living human beings, the line has been crossed. The consequences for yourselves and others will be immense.