

The Committee Secretary  
Community Affairs Committee  
Department of the Senate  
CANBERRA ACT

Dear Sir,

As a concerned citizen and Christian I wish to make the following submission to your committee on the matter of embryonic stem cell research, an issue shortly to be debated by the Senate.

It has been stated by leading stem cell researcher Professor Alan Mackay-Sim that the use of adult stem cells provides genuine benefits, thus dispensing for the need to produce embryonic stem cells.

This is demonstrated by the extraordinary capacity of adult stem cells to generate or stimulate growth in some 58 medical conditions currently being treated via their use.

Australian researcher Sir Gustav Nossal concedes that embryonic stem cell research is "rich in promise but entails the work of decades rather than years." This is a highly speculative approach, and Australia cannot afford to waste scarce research dollars on such an approach, given that such research has already led to the failure of Biotech Companies which have invested in it.

UK and US are currently moving rapidly from investment in embryonic to adult stem cell alternatives and Australia should therefore actively pursue the same course and get on board this research journey

My professional and personal concern is derived from eighteen years work in therapeutics as pharmacist in an accredited teaching hospital in Australia.

Yours faithfully



(MR.) E.J.HOLMES

