

Community Affairs Committee
Responses to the Lockhart Review
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra
ACT 2600

Dear Sir or Madam,

I write to express my support for a continuing total ban on human cloning and to oppose the recommendations of the Lockhart Committee to allow "therapeutic" cloning of human embryos, and greater access by scientists to human embryos, for stem cell research.

The destruction of human embryos for research purposes is never "therapeutic". There is a deceptive misuse of this word in the phrase "therapeutic cloning".

Cloning human beings is grossly unethical and the situation is worsened if the new, cloned human life is then to be destroyed.

The European Parliament has described the attempt to define some cloning as "therapeutic" to be a sleight of hand and the Australian Health Ethics Committee described it as "lacking transparency and concealing the truth". So-called "therapeutic cloning" treats human life as a manufactured product. A new subclass of laboratory humans will be created with the intention that they be exploited and destroyed as if they were laboratory animals. This would be the worst of all possible uses of cloning technology.

Yours sincerely,

