

# David Perrin

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Enquiry into the legislative responses to recommendations of the Lockhart review.

## CLONING AND HUMAN EMBRYO RESEARCH.

I write as a former member of the Victorian Parliament who has had a long involvement with the issues of cloning, the use of human embryos, artificial reproductive technology and the regulation of these by legislation.

### CLONING

The Federal, State and Territory governments have all passed legislation that prohibit cloning of humans in any form and for any purpose.

Accordingly there is no need to review this prohibition as these measures were passed in all legislatures with substantial or unanimous votes of the elected representatives.

Human reproductive cloning has been declared contrary to human dignity by the UNESCO "Declaration on the Human Genome & Human Rights" and also by the World Health Organisation and is prohibited by the Council of Europe.

The United Nation by majority, voted against cloning. The delegates proposing that no human life should ever be produced to be destroyed for the benefit of others.

Australia has a duty to respect the human dignity of embryos produced by cloning.

Distinctions between "therapeutic cloning" and "reproductive cloning" are dishonest and should not be allowed as they dehumanise the cloned human embryos into classes.

Terms like "cloned human tissue" are dishonest and tend to make the human clone ethically invisible.

I support the definition of a human embryo that is defined in clause 7 of the Act as it is inclusive of human embryos whether brought about by natural fertilisation or cloning.

Cloning in simple terms creates an identical twin embryo of the human donor.

Therefore all human cloning for whatever purposes should remain prohibited.

### DESTRUCTIVE USE OF HUMAN EMBRYOS

Australian legislatures have allowed the use of frozen embryos for the purposes of destructive experiments.

Prime Minister Howard in his speech on the bill made it perfectly clear that ONLY spare embryos from IVF could be used as they were going to die anyway. Mr. Howard said "it is my very strong belief that human embryos should not be created for any purpose other than IVF treatment".

Accordingly, we should NOT allow the creating of a human embryo solely to experiment on it and destroy it.

We should NOT allow the creation of a human embryo with a deformity, disease or a disability in order to study the progress of the disability as proposed by some.

The wider community does not support the creation of human embryos to be then destroyed in medical experiments. There has been no change to community standards since 2002 when this debate was last held.

In fact in the intervening 4 years since the last debate there has been NO scientific benefits or medical cures derived from the use of "surplus" human embryos from IVF.

Therefore the destruction of any human embryo from any source should be prohibited.

### AUSTRALIA CAN BECOME WORLD LEADER IN MEDICAL RESEARCH

All medical breakthroughs have come from stem cells taken from ethical sources.

Scientists at Griffith University in NSW have extracted stem cells from a patient's nasal lining in order to replace those lost to disease.

Scientists are using stem cells from umbilical cord blood to provide medical cures.

Medical breakthroughs are available through stem cells from ethical sources that do not involve the destruction of human embryos or human cloning.

As medical research funds are limited, Australia can ensure that these scarce funds are best used to provide medical cures based on the known cures from stem cells from ethical sources but without the dilemma of the ethical debate that divides the community.

**Therefore Australia should promote medical research to world's best practice using cures from stem cell therapies from non human embryonic sources.**

### **THE PERFECTION OF THE HUMAN SPECIES**

The debate on the perfection of the human species is at the heart of the cloning and human embryo issue.

The claim is that we can eugenically enhance the human species and that modern eugenic views are different from the past. This is not so.

The modern view of eugenics is ethically no different from past eugenic views.

There are NO "benefits" of using one human to enhance the health of others.

**PLEASE REJECT THE ALL BILLS THAT LEGALISE CLONING AND KILLING EMBRYOS TO ADVANCE UNETHICAL MEDICAL RESEARCH.**

I would be happy to provide you with any further information.

Yours Sincerely,

David Perrin