

26 October 2006

Mr Elton Humphery
Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 1600
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2006-10-26

Dear Mr Humphery,

I would like to inform the Senate Community Affairs Committee of an inaccuracy in a comment made by Senator Concetta Fierravanti-Wells to Mr John Brumby during the Committee hearings in Melbourne on the 24 October 2006.

In the transcript, Ms Fierravanti-Wells states, in a broad question to Mr Brumby, that the Singaporean company ES Cell International is the commercial arm of the Australian Stem Cell Centre. This comment is in reference to Dr Nicholas Gough, author of a report on the developments in embryonic stem cell research, specific to his declared interests in ES Cell International.

I would like to correct this record by stating that ES Cell International is not the commercial arm of the Australian Stem Cell Centre.

Dr Gough does not have any financial interest or investment in the Australian Stem Cell Centre and would not stand to profit from the commercialisation of any research currently undertaken by the Australian Stem Cell Centre.

The Australian Stem Cell Centre has no formal arrangement of any kind with Dr Nicholas Gough.

I hope this clarifies Senator Fierravanti-Wells' comments.

Regards,



Professor Stephen Livesey
Chief Executive Officer