



AUSTRALIAN FAMILY ASSOCIATION

South Australian Branch

4 October 2006

Committee Secretary
Community Affairs Committee
Department of the Senate
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

To Whom It May Concern,

The Australian Family Association (SA Branch) wishes to make a brief submission to the *Inquiry into Legislative responses to Recommendations of the Lockhart Review*.

Aside from adding our support to the submission already made by our interstate colleagues, we wish to emphasise and/or add the following points for the Committee's consideration:

- The Lockhart Review clearly exceeded its own terms of reference. Furthermore, it seems to have now become a permanent lobbying group seeking to influence policymakers.
- Consideration needs to be given to whether, in fact, members of the Lockhart Review had conflicts of interest with the matter of their inquiry.
- The Lockhart Review ignored massive community opposition to human cloning and embryonic stem cell research.
- The Lockhart Review based some of its finding on the work of Korean scientist Dr Hwang Woo-suk, since exposed as a charlatan and a fraud.

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- 2002 saw a unanimous Federal ban on human cloning and consequent legislation in all States. To reverse that decision now in favour of so-call 'therapeutic' cloning would be engaging in pure semantics. Cloning is cloning and nothing has changed for Parliament to revisit this issue in a different light.
- Scientific research has failed to produce any cure from embryonic stem cells, whereas completely ethical adult stem cells (which do not require the destruction of human life) have produced more than 70 cures.
- Recommendations made by the Lockhart Review open the doors wide open to abuse. Permitting animal-human hybrids or chimeras, for example, on the proviso that they only be allowed to develop to a certain age before destruction is virtually unenforceable.
- Consideration should also be given to the fact that the proponent of a bill before the Committee, Senator Stott-Despoja, may also have a conflict of interest. According to the *Australian* (19/8/06), Senator Stott-Despoja's husband, Mr Ian Smith, is chief executive of a public relations firm representing the Australian Stem Cell Centre.

We hope that the Committee, upon examining legislation to implement any recommendations of the discredited Lockhart Review, will see fit to recommend that the status quo, at bare minimum, will be maintained.

Respect for all human life must be paramount in any deliberations made by the Committee or by Parliament.

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State Secretary

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