

I am registering my strong and vigorous opposition to proposed bills to implement the recommendations of the Lockhart Report on human cloning be it under the guise of 'reproductive' or 'therapeutic'. I understand that a Senate inquiry will convene to consider the proposals and I therefore submit my NO vote today the 4th of October being the last day to do so, to any change to the 2002 vote when Parliament voted unanimously to ban human cloning.

It is imperative that the senate inquiry accept the following facts and acknowledge that no amount of medical persuasion should be used to falsely persuade non-medically minded members making up this senate inquiry, that they need not give too much attention to the ethical and moral elements of this issue:

- Fact 1: Cloning creates a human embryo solely for research, with its destruction intended – and that is blatantly wrong. Why? One human being, or a group of human beings, no matter how well qualified, no matter how well intended their aim, possesses any right or entitlement to legalise the creation of one life in order to destroy it for the benefit of another life.
- Fact 2: An embryo is an embryo, no matter how it is made – whether by natural conception, by IVF, or by cloning. The cloned embryo, even though created 'asexually', is no different in itself to one created 'sexually' by 'egg and sperm', and could, like cloned animals, be brought to birth. Do not dehumanize the cloned embryo!
- Fact 3: Cloning requires either the harvesting of hundreds of eggs per clone, commercializing women's ovaries and risking their health, or using animal eggs to make a human-animal hybrid – and that is wrong.
- Fact 4: If cloning was so clearly wrong in 2002, when the Federal Parliament unanimously banned cloning, how can it be 'right' in 2006? Nothing significant has changed in the science, or in valid polls of public opinion, and nothing can change in the ethics of 'creating in order to destroy'.
- Fact 5: Although cloning must be rejected as ethically wrong, the great consolation is that we do not need it. Why? Because we will still get the great benefits of stem cell science without cloning.

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