

## **Question on notice – Senator Ron Boswell**

**In your evidence today you said that Sydney IVF had used 50 licensed embryos to date. Can you please be specific and tell us how many embryos were used to study specific diseases such as juvenile diabetes and Parkinson's disease.**

## **Response**

The question I inferred, and which I answered, was how many embryos had we used under Licence 309703, the subject of which includes (but is not limited to) devising diagnosis and treatment for human diseases such as juvenile diabetes and Parkinson's disease. The answer is 50 embryos. We have 10 stem cell lines from these embryos. The first two stem cell lines were proof of concept derivations. The first was to test our derivation process and since donated to the Australian Stem Cell Centre for distribution to researchers worldwide. The second was to test the derivation process under GMP conditions (the 'Good Manufacturing Practice' standard required for human cell therapy): this line is to be offered to the ASCC. The remaining eight have been produced for a Singapore-based company funded by the U.S.-based Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation and are undergoing final testing to qualify for GMP. They are thus directly intended for the treatment of children with type I ('juvenile') diabetes. As I mentioned in my evidence, the cell lines from these embryos are the first in the world to be produced to GMP standard, a major achievement. The derivations were undertaken in the Brisbane laboratories of Q-Gen, which is the commercial arm of the Queensland Institute for Medical Research.

Prof. Robert Jansen  
Medical and Managing Director  
Sydney IVF Limited

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