



10 November 2007

## **Human Reproductive Technology (Cloning) Amendment Bill 2007**

The key question has already been answered – many times and very well.  
**An SCNT human clone is human life.**

**This conclusion has nothing to do with moral law or religious principles.**

The Lockhart Committee acknowledged this<sup>i</sup> and every high school biology student knows it. The SCNT clone with 46 human chromosomes is as capable of an independent existence if given the same chance as any IVF/ART<sup>ii</sup> embryo.

It is just not possible to deny this biological fact. Dolly the sheep is the non-human equivalent and we have all seen her photo.

In exercising the privilege of a conscience vote each MP must personally decide whether it is ever acceptable to deliberately create human life for the express purpose of destructive research. We remind you that there are already prominent Australian voices calling for the sacrifice of later-stage embryos with formed organs instead of using stem cells<sup>iii</sup>.

**The doctors of *Medicine With Morality* want to state that we should never create human life with the purpose of destructive research or the transfer of mature organs.** We must not tread the pathway of devaluing human life at any point.

**The doctors of *Medicine With Morality* want to state that in the field of medical science we should never sacrifice one human life for another.**

Although the doctors of *Medicine With Morality* believe that medicine must hold to certain moral absolutes, this argument is not just one of moral law. Sacrificing one human life for another places us in the invidious position of ultimately deciding which lives are worthy to be lived and which can be discarded – whether for reason of maturity or weighing one disability or defect against another. We must not tread the pathway of devaluing human life at any point.

**The doctors of *Medicine With Morality* also want to state that sacrificing human embryos to get stem cells is not necessary.** There is proven success of non-embryonic stem cells<sup>iv</sup> and these are also showing they can behave as embryonic cells<sup>v</sup>.

**We cannot afford to devalue human life at any point and we plead with you not to give legal approval for such devaluation.**

***NO confusion! We must not devalue human life!***

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<sup>i</sup> Lockhart report, section 17.4 page 170

The Committee agreed that human embryo clones are human embryos and that, given the right environment for development, could develop into a human being. Furthermore, if such an embryo were implanted into the body of a woman to achieve a pregnancy, this entity would certainly have the same status as any other human embryo, and were this pregnancy to result in a live birth, that child would enjoy the same rights and protection as any other child.

<sup>ii</sup> ART Assisted Reproductive Technology is a more encompassing name for IVF.

<sup>iii</sup> University of Oxford Professor Julian Savulescu, Director of the Oxford Uehiro Centre for Practical Ethics, an expatriate Australian at Oxford University:

“Indeed, it is not merely morally permissible but morally required that we employ cloning to produce embryos or fetuses for the sake of providing cells, tissues or even organs for therapy” *Journal of Medical Ethics* 25.2 (April 1999): p87.

<sup>iv</sup> <http://www.stemcellresearch.org/alternatives/111newreasons.html>

<sup>v</sup> Okita, K., Ichisaka, T. & Yamanaka, S. *Nature* doi:10.1038/nature05934 (2007).  
<http://www.nature.com/stemcells>

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Signatories follow