

HAND OFF OUR OVARIES

EGG SELLING THREAT TO WOMEN

The UK Human Fertility and Embryology Authority has given the green light to the

commercial sale of women's eggs for cloning research. Women who go through the

invasive egg harvesting procedure will be paid £250 plus travel expenses.

Katrina George, Australian spokesperson for the international coalition

Hands Off Our Ovaries, condemned the UK decision.

The lesson for Australia is that Parliament's yes to cloning has created a

demand for eggs that can only be satisfied by a commercial trade. How long

will it be before Australian women follow their UK sisters to the egg market?

Egg extraction carries definite health risks including ovarian hyper stimulation syndrome,

organ failure, infertility and even death. It raises serious questions about the status of

women who are regarded as marketable sources of raw material.

Egg extraction offers no therapeutic benefit to the supplier herself and the benefits of

cloning to future generations are at best hypothetical.

This decision treats women and their well being as collateral damage in the name of

scientific research.

A trade in ova will induce the poorest and most desperate women to assume the serious

health risks of ova extraction for money. It is meaningless to speak of 'choice' and

'informed consent' in such a context.

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