



**PRESS
RELEASE**



DO NO HARM!

Australians for Ethical Stem Cell Research

CONTACT: DR DAVID VAN GEND, 0417 007066; 07-46329377; vangend@machousemedical.com.au

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Victorian MPs must reduce the evil of the Cloning Bill

“If Victorian MPs lack the intellectual strength to resist the organised lying of the cloning lobby, let them at least find moral strength to reduce the evil of this legislation” said Dr David van Gend, National Director of Australians for Ethical Stem Cell Research (AESCR).

“Let the State Parliaments do what the House of Representatives was too timid to do – and remove the vile provision in this Bill for aborted baby girls to be made the ‘mothers’ of experimental embryos.

In the final hour of debate Federally, an attempt to remove this provision was rejected – not on its merits, but because Mal Washer MP stated that an amended Bill, if returned to the Senate, would lose its one vote majority and be defeated. Therefore no lower House amendments could be allowed.

“State MPs must judge this grotesque proposal on its merits. Cloning to create living human embryos solely for research is morally wrong and scientifically unnecessary; but making an aborted female fetus the ‘dead mother’ of these embryos is sick and surreal - and shows just how fast this inhuman science is corrupting us. Any State MP who votes for cloning can be pitied as ignorant and easily duped; any who fails to reject the ‘aborted baby as mother’ provision deserves our anger and contempt.”

CONTACTS: Dr David van Gend 0417007066

Documentation:

- o The *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2006* allows scientists to “create human embryos using precursor cells from a human embryo or a human foetus, and use such embryos”.^[i]
- o As defined in the *Prohibition of Human Cloning Act 2002*, “precursor cell means a cell that has the potential to develop into a human egg or human sperm”.^[ii] These are the immature egg cells or sperm cells in the developing foetus, which can be used for cloning, or be matured into a usable egg to create ‘sperm-egg’ embryos. This possibility was the stated intention of the Lockhart Committee.

^[i] Patterson Bill p.13 <http://parlinfoweb.aph.gov.au/piweb/Repository/Chamber/Hansards/Linked/5040-2.PDF>

^[ii] Definitions of ‘precursor cells’ at:

[http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/ActCompilation1.nsf/o/4374F568FE759928CA2570450002C19A/\\$file/ProhibHumanCloning2002_WD02.pdf](http://www.comlaw.gov.au/ComLaw/Legislation/ActCompilation1.nsf/o/4374F568FE759928CA2570450002C19A/$file/ProhibHumanCloning2002_WD02.pdf)

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CLONING VOTE - CONSCIENCE CRUSHED BY ‘CON SCIENCE’

Thursday 7th December 2006 – CONTACT: Dr David van Gend 0417007066