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Stem cell research bill will be passed:Firth. 05/06/2007. ABC News Online

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Stem cell research bill will be passed:Firth

The New South Wales Minister for Science and Medical Research, Verity Firth, says she believes a bill to expand stem cell research will pass Parliament.

State MPs will today begin debating legislation that would allow the therapeutic cloning of embryos.

They will then take a conscience vote on the bill.

The Catholic and Anglican churches have labelled the legislation unethical, and have made public appeals for it to be voted down.

But Ms Firth says therapeutic cloning could lead to significant medical breakthroughs.

"Being a mum, I look at my little girl, and I think, if anything was to befall her, if she was to have an accident or if she were to develop motor neurone disease or something like that, I would want everything humanly possible to be able to be done to help her," she said.

"I think that this is what this sort of research provides. It provides hope."

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