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NATIONAL



Nairn follows doctor's advice on stem cells

01/12/2006

SPECIAL Minister of State Gary Nairn lost his wife Kerrie to cancer last year and yesterday he followed her doctor's advice to support legislation overturning a ban on therapeutic cloning.

Mr Nairn said he hoped embryonic stem cell research would one day lead to a cure for cancer and other diseases.

"Living that experience certainly instilled in me a determination that, as a legislator in this Australian Parliament, we should do all we can to give our eminent scientists an opportunity to address some of these issues," he said.

"Given that solutions to a range of diseases and disabilities could be boosted through this research, I cannot deny a chance of a cure for these people."

Former health minister Kay Patterson's private member's Bill, which narrowly passed the Senate this month, would let scientists clone embryos to extract their stem cells for medical research.

Labor MP Julia Irwin, whose father, Alan, died five years after being diagnosed with Huntington's disease, said the hope for hundreds of sufferers was that scientific research may find a cure.

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December, 2006

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