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Australians for Ethical Stem Cell Research

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CLONING VOTE A VICTORY FOR ORGANISED LYING

“The Senate vote for cloning is a victory for organised lying”, said Dr David van Gend, national director of **DO NO HARM! Australians for Ethical Stem Cell Research**.

“Brutal legislation, that permits the creation of human young as mere raw material for research, has been achieved by systematic scientific deception.

“And even on the day of the vote, science lobbyists were deceiving the public by denying the most brutal aspect of this Bill – that it lets aborted baby girls be used as ‘mothers’ of cloned embryos.

“Some scientists have shown they are prepared to do ‘whatever it takes’ to get liberal legislation on cloning:

- Fairy tales about cloning being used to treat Alzheimer’s or diabetes in humans – when in truth all it does in animals is cause tumours and genetic damage.
- Continual denigration of the magnificent and ethical field of adult stem-cell science, in reality so superior to cloning for both research and treatment.
- Hiding from the public the fact that embryonic stem cells remain entirely unusable in humans, due to tumour formation, while adult stem cells are being safely used in over 1200 human trials.
- Vicious personal attacks on adult stem cell scientists who dare point out the true technical limitations of cloning – see the Jaenisch attack in the Senate Committee documents.

“We have witnessed the hubris of scientists who do not want anybody, even the Parliament, telling them what they can and cannot research”, said Dr van Gend. “As one senior scientist put it to me, **‘If you let them limit us on cloning, where will it stop?’**”

“We have witnessed the degraded behaviour of scientists who – as another senior scientist confided - feel so starved of funding for research that they will compromise their professional integrity for a big new bucket of public money.

“We have witnessed the cowardice of scientists who know that their colleagues are falsifying the science for PR reasons, who will admit that privately but will not speak up for fear of rocking the scientific boat.

“In contrast, we have seen honourable scientists like Prof TJ Martin, Prof Alan Mackay-Sim and Prof James Sherley challenging their colleagues to tell the scientific truth and maintain ethical standards for human research. Their efforts, in the face of organised lying by their colleagues, has been an inspiration.

“There must be no further misplaced deference to lofty Professors and other snake-oil salesmen who practice deceit in order to progress their radical agenda,” said Dr van Gend.

“Our MPs must be more ruthlessly skeptical of these scientific lobbyists if they are not to be taken for fools like their 34 upper house colleagues.”

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