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**Submission to Inquiry into Scientific, Ethical and Regulatory Aspects of Human Cloning.**

**Initial statements.**

The following statements are based on my extensive ethical experience both clinically as a doctor and as a assistant lecturer in medical ethics at the University of New South Wales.

1. Medical research is necessary and to be encouraged when it serves to cure illness, alleviate pain and improve the wellbeing of people.
2. However any research, procedure or investigation that affects the dignity of people which we have defended at length in society is to be discouraged.
3. Cloning attacks fundamentally the dignity of the human person making him subservient to the needs of others.
4. Not to go down the path of cloning will not hamper scientific progress and will prevent untold pain and suffering to many individuals.

**PROGRESS.**

1. Too often opposition to what appears scientific progress in the medical science can appear as a form of neo-ludditism. This is no something I espouse. As a doctor and a teacher of medical ethics I believe scientific development is essential to provide ever increasing benefits to citizens of our society and those of other societies.

**RESPECT FOR DIGNITY OF PERSON.**

1. However no development can be at the expense of any subgroup of our society. This is the reason we have ethics committees at hospitals and universities to oversee the ethical research that goes on.
2. This is also the reason why research on humans that occurred during WWII was so strongly opposed and led to the development of declarations of rights of people and to analagous medical statements.
3. Any research must respect the dignity of the persons involved in the clinical trial. In the case of techniques that touch the moments of the beginning of life they must respect the dignity of the person to be born within circumstances and within circumstances that facilitate proper development, maturation and growth both physically and mentally.

4. Here I would like to propose that a right that is tacitly acknowledged but needs to be developed further and that is the right to be born within circumstances that allow the proper nurturing of the human person so essential to healthy development.
5. Inadequate research has been done on the development of the human person when conceived and born out of what has been traditionally understood as normal family dynamics. The little research that has been done on people born in non traditional circumstances have not been reported widely as they have often not indicated good outcomes or the offspring.<sup>1</sup>
6. Purposes for cloning where the cloned embryos are destroyed to harvest by products goes against the understanding we have of the process of human development. That life begins at conception can be proved scientifically and philosophically. Any mass production to farm human organs will be an attack on the dignity of the person and makes the respect for the human person at other stages of life more difficult to defend.

#### **CLONING AND DIGNITY.**

1. The process of cloning is well known to the committee. It is however more important to examine the perceived needs for cloning. The proposed scientific and personal needs for cloning are not significant enough to necessitate the processes indicated.
2. Any therapeutic need to be able to produce sources to harvest organs is only a justification for instrumentalising the human person saying the life of one person, as any cloned person is a life, can be used as a spare parts process for the health of another person.

The above are only a brief synopsis of my opposition to human cloning.

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<sup>1</sup> Two recent articles in the popular press one in the Good Weekend Magazine titled "Daddy who are you" highlighted some of the difficulties experienced by children of IVF techniques and another article by Betina Arndt also in the Herald discussed the difficulties, statistically shown, which are experienced by children born in single families. These simple article, which could be supported by a many scientific articles reflect the uncharted waters which we are creating for children nurtured in non traditional environments and secondly pain these children are and will experience let alone the developmental difficulties.