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Mr N Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie

Thank you for your letter dated 12 November 2003, enclosing a petition received by the House on 11 November 2003, regarding adult stem cell and embryonic stem cell research.

The *Research Involving Human Embryos and Prohibition of Cloning Act 2003* passed by the Queensland Parliament in March 2003, along with the Commonwealth *Research Involving Human Embryos Act 2002* and *Prohibition of Human Cloning Act 2002* prohibits destructive research involving human embryos except under strict conditions. This legislation forms part of a national regulatory scheme for research involving human embryos, and establishes a licensing regime administered by the National Health and Medical Research Council Embryo Research Licensing Committee. Research involving human embryos can only occur under a validly issued licence from the NHMRC Embryo Research Licensing Committee. Compliance with the legislation and with any conditions imposed upon licences will be monitored and enforced by the NHMRC Embryo Research Licensing Committee in accordance with its powers and responsibilities under the State and Commonwealth Acts.

Adult stem cell research is currently not regulated in Queensland and does not require legislative attention. The Queensland Government continues to recognise and support the significant work being undertaken using human adult stem cells. While there have been enormous developments in medical research involving adult stem cells, this does not replace the need for embryonic stem cell research. We need to continue to responsibly pursue both avenues of research simultaneously to maximise the chances of discovering cures for diseases that cause human suffering.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

SIGNED

Wendy Edmond MP
**Minister for Health and
Minister Assisting the Premier on Women's Policy**