



MEDIA STATEMENT

**Minister for Women
Minister for Science and Medical Research
Minister Assisting the Minister for Health (Cancer)
Minister Assisting the Minister for Climate Change, Environment & Water**

Tuesday, 26 June 2007

NSW PARLIAMENT APPROVES EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

The NSW Parliament has tonight (Tuesday) passed legislation that provides a legal framework for the use of embryonic stem cells in research that has the very real potential to unlock the cures for many causes of human suffering.

Parliamentary approval of the *Human Cloning and Other Prohibited Practices Amendment Bill 2007* has restored national consistency in this important area of medical research, helping to keep scientists and their expertise here in NSW.

While embryonic stem cells can now be used to better our understanding of many currently untreatable human diseases and disabilities, the strict ban on human cloning remains firmly in place.

Embryonic stem cell research – a field that scientists have been exploring for less than a decade – provides renewed hope to those living with Type 1 diabetes, Parkinson's, motor neuron disease and spinal cord injuries.

It's opening the prospect of new discoveries that could transform lives.

Providing a legal framework for this promising area of medical research is also a demonstration of the Government's determination to see NSW remain a magnet for scientific endeavour and home to the world's leading researchers.

As well as investing in well-established areas of science and innovation, we are moving quickly to place NSW at the forefront of new and emerging fields of scientific endeavour, including that involving embryonic stem cells.

The Upper House vote was 27 in favour and 13 against.

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