

Reproductive and so-called ‘therapeutic’ cloning are different terms for the same process.

In therapeutic cloning, a new life is created in order to destroy it and use its stem cells for research or therapeutic purposes.

This is **never ‘therapeutic’ for the human embryo who is killed.**

In reproductive cloning, a new life is created and that life is allowed to mature and develop unto birth.

Each involves technological dominance over procreation and the potential exploitation of another human being.



**When you think about it
All cloning is reproductive
And an offence against human
dignity.**

In March 2005, the United Nations General Assembly approved a declaration calling on *all* UN Member States to ban *all* forms of human cloning, including cloning for medical treatment, as it is **“incompatible with human dignity and the protection of human life.”**

Australia must work with the United Nations to promote ethical science and retain our complete ban on all forms of human cloning (Prohibition of Human Cloning Act, 2002).

Let’s ensure that science progresses in ways which serve human life and dignity.



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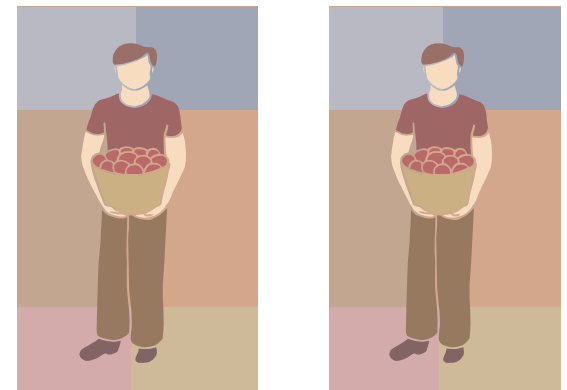
Human Cloning

What is human cloning?

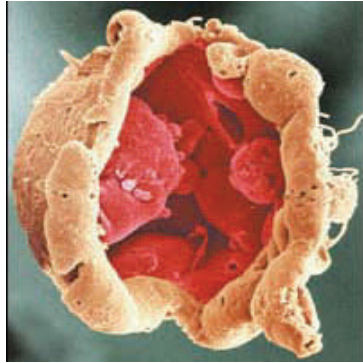
Human cloning is the creation of a human being whose genetic make-up is nearly identical to that of a currently or previously existing individual.

It is usually undertaken using a process called *somatic cell nuclear transfer*.

The nucleus of a human egg is removed and replaced with the nucleus of a body cell from the individual who is to be cloned. The egg is then triggered so that the nucleus directs the development of a new human being.



A human clone would possess the same human dignity as any other newly created human being.



How is cloning different from sexual reproduction?

In sexual reproduction the genetic material of a sperm and an egg unite to form a new human being with a *distinct* genetic make-up (fertilization).

But a new human being created through cloning will have almost the *identical* genetic make-up of the person whose body cell provided the nucleus.

Nevertheless, a cloned human being is still a member of the species *homo sapiens*, possessing a human genetic structure and a rational nature. He or she can potentially pass through every stage of life – embryonic, fetal, child and adult – as an human being created by sexual reproduction.

Why clone human beings?

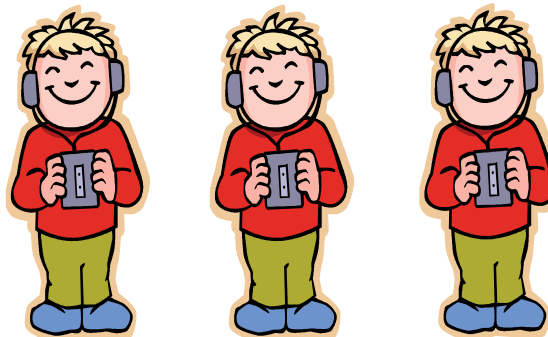
Cloning-for-biomedical-research...

so-called ‘therapeutic cloning’ would use human beings at the embryonic stage for research, to test new drugs and treatments, or to obtain stem cells.

Cloning-to-produce-children...

so-called ‘reproductive cloning’ would involve cloned embryos being implanted in a woman’s womb and being born.

This could allow infertile couples or other individuals to have a genetically related child. Others might want to design a disease free embryo, make a near-perfect tissue transplant donor for an existing sick child (a donor clone), try to replicate a loved one, or reproduce individuals of great genius, talent or beauty.



Should we clone human beings?

As well as scientific reasons, there are very important ethical reasons why we should **never** clone human beings.

1. *Cloning is an assault upon the dignity of a human person.* A clone is not wanted for his or her own sake, but because he or she is ‘useful’ for experimentation, as a supply of cells or organs, or as a copy of some other ‘worthwhile’ person.
2. *Cloning is an attack upon the life of a human person.* A human embryo might be killed to extract stem cells, or in the process of other biomedical research. A child who is born from cloning could suffer untold physical and psychological harm.
3. *Cloning transforms human procreation into a means of production.* Children are a gift to be unconditionally welcomed, not a product to be engineered and possibly, exploited.
4. *Cloning denies children and society the benefit of parental and family relationships.* It could create whole classes of ‘genetic orphans’, or children with different ‘genetic’, ‘gestational’ and ‘adoptive’ parents.