



Steve Fielding **Family First** Senator for Victoria

MEDIA RELEASE

SF/27. Tuesday December 20, 2005

FAMILY FIRST OPPOSES CLONING HUMAN EMBRYOS FOR RESEARCH

There is little community support for cloning human embryos for research.

A Swinburne University study last year found 63 per cent of the community oppose cloning human embryos for research.

Family First believes it is important to find cures, and people are being cured today using treatments developed from adult stem cells. There have been no cures using embryonic stem cells.

That is why Family First believes we should stick to research that has produced cures – research using adult stem cells (including stem cells from umbilical cord blood).

For example, last year German scientists reported improving patients' heart function after a heart attack by using bone marrow stem cells. Also in 2004, Portuguese researchers used nasal stem cells to improve the motor function of patients with spinal cord injury and South Korean researchers used stem cells from umbilical cord blood to improve the function of a patient with an injured spinal cord, so she could walk again.

Family First is extremely concerned about allowing human embryos to be cloned – and then destroyed for research – for the promise of cures that may never come.

This is deliberately creating new human beings with the intention of destroying the embryos for research. Cloning human embryos for research is controversial and wrong.

For media enquiries phone Chief of Staff Felicity Dargan on 0409 550 446