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Press Release**

**Parliament creates an expendable class of human life with
stem cell laws - Catholic Church**

The Australian Parliament had crossed a new and dangerous line by passing embryonic stem cell research laws allowing the intentional destruction of human life, Catholic Archbishop Philip Wilson said today.

Archbishop Wilson said the new laws sacrificed human life for profit.

"The parliament has created for the first time in Australian political and legal history, a class of human life which is statutorily expendable," he said.

"Human life now becomes a commercial commodity. Under these laws, human life is for sale."

Archbishop Wilson questioned whether politicians had listened to the will of the people on the question of using embryos for stem cell research, saying of the 1,851 submissions received by the Senate Community Affairs Committee, only 48 were in support of the Bill.

"The passage of this Bill is evidence of the continuing slide towards wholesale creation and destruction of human life for various unproven medical and commercial uses," he said.

Archbishop Wilson said while he was profoundly saddened at the new embryonic stem cell research laws, he welcomed the recent passage of legislation banning human cloning.

On that issue, the parliament had voted emphatically to preserve the uniqueness of each human being, he said.

"Cloning, however executed and for whatever goals, distorts the human meaning of procreation, which is no longer considered for reproductive and relational reasons but programmed for medical, experimental and commercial purposes," Archbishop Wilson said.

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