people who back then were convinced by the arguments and sold by the prospect that their family members would be cured of degenerative diseases. They came to me expressing their disappointment and their cynicism.

In 2003 the legislation allowing embryonic stem cell research specifically prohibited cloning and SCNT. Well, four years later we are permitting both, but the only difference is we are destroying the embryo at 14 days. If we allowed its implantation into a uterus, it would be human reproductive cloning. There is no doubt in my mind that in another four years or before, the Parliament will be asked to allow the embryo created through the SCNT process to be implanted into a uterus because research outcomes are not being realised due to limitations.

With my parliamentary colleague Christine Campbell, I have arranged for hours of briefings and have spent many more hours researching this complex science.

The simplistic way this cloning procedure is explained deserves much more investigation. Because of the procedure’s contribution to the altering of humanity as we know it, it should not be shrouded off as progress. This issue, I believe, is one that must question our commitment to human rights.

Dolly the sheep was the first cloned animal to live, albeit with many diseases. Last week Americans created a half man, half sheep. Should we be proud of these developments?

Just because we can, does it mean that we should?

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