



## EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH AND PEOPLE LIVING WITH MND

### POSITION STATEMENT

**September, 2006.**  
**Revised June 2010**

MND Australia's vision of "A world free from MND" is set in a time when there is no known cause, no cure and only interventions with limited effect. Current statistics show that every day at least one Australian dies of MND and a new person is diagnosed with this progressive and inevitably fatal disease.

MND Australia as the national peak body for MND care and research in Australia

MND Australia's Research Policy (October, 2005, Revised June 2010) was developed, stating

**"MND Australia supports research which is legal, has sound scientific rationale and has the potential to bring us closer to finding the cause, treatment or cure for MND."**

In the current research climate there is work being done with stem cells which may offer promising avenues for future treatments or a cure for motor neurone disease. This research is currently covered by legislation which is reviewed by Governments from time to time.

Whilst MND Australia recognises that research on embryonic stem cells poses ethical dilemmas for some Australians, it is our belief that most Australians support a proactive attitude to the advancement of research and clinical translation within Australia. MND Australia also recognises that individual members may have a different view, and we accept and embrace individual members' right to a different opinion.

MND Australia recognises that Australian researchers have made a significant contribution to advances in this area and that some have left to work overseas

The Australian Government can make a significant contribution to a positive future for people with neurodegenerative conditions by supporting ethical and well-governed stem cell research.

MND Australia continues to support the recommendations of the Lockhart Review and believes that at this time it would be unethical to prematurely exclude certain types of stem cell research before their full potential has been realised.

**Endorsed by MND Australia**  
**Signed**

**Ralph Warren (President)**

**Review date:**

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