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Issue - Cloning - Churches' Agency on Social Issues - New Zealand

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Item Type	Preprint
Authors	Churches' Agency on Social Issues: Presbyterian, Methodist, Churches of Christ, Quakers
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Download date	2026-07-16 10:21:50
Link to Item	http://hdl.handle.net/20.500.12424/228652

Churches' Agency on Social Issues:
Presbyterian, Methodist, Churches of Christ, Quakers A Christian agency dealing with social, economic, ecological and political matters in Aotearoa New Zealand



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NEWS

Making Good Decisions in Biotechnology: A series of four studies launched in November 2003 considers three major bioethical issues: human reproductive cloning, embryonic stem cell research and the obtaining and use of genetic information.

Contents

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Study 1: Stem Cell Research "Ethics and Embryos"
Study 2: Reproductive Cloning "The Same or Different?"
Study 3: Using Genetic Information "Genes and the Genie"
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Bible Studies
References and Further Reading
Appendices: 1. The InterChurch Bioethics Council (ICBC) terms of reference, activities and membership
2. Current legislation
3. Background Scientific Information

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The Interchurch Bioethics Council, funded by the Presbyterian, Methodist and Anglican Churches, was set up in mid-2002. Formerly known as the Interchurch Commission on Genetic Engineering, the ten-member Council has widened its brief and now has the following tasks:

1. To provide opportunities for consultation and dialogue with church members and the community generally on the ethical, theological, spiritual and cultural issues in the use of biotechnology.
2. To take an educational role for the Anglican, Methodist and Presbyterian churches on the ethical, theological, spiritual and cultural issues in the use of biotechnology
3. To advise the participating churches on the above issues, and
4. To make submissions and comments to the New Zealand Bioethics Council and other relevant bodies on the above issues.

For an account of its first meeting, click [here](#).

For a summary of its submission on biotechnology education, click

For a .pdf of the resource *Where Do We Stand?* on the lifting of the GM moratorium, scheduled for the end of October 2003, click [here](#). (NB it's a big file, over 1 MB).

The establishment of the Interchurch Bioethics Council has enabled the churches to call on this specialist working group for comment, education and resourcing. The Council arose from the work of the InterChurch Council on Genetic Engineering <http://www.casi.org.nz/gecommission/welcome.html> and it made a major submission to the Royal Commission on Genetic Modification.

The ICBC is currently trialling a study guide on *Making Good Decisions in Biotechnology*. Copies will be available in September 2003.

Submissions

The InterChurch Bioethics Council has made a submission on the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill current (August 2003) before the Health Select Committee. For full text, click [here](#),

Comment on the earlier draft (1997) of this legislation!:

The Bill is commended for stating that "The paramount importance of the welfare of any child born as a consequence of assisted reproduction procedures shall guide the operation of this Act. Explanatory Note 3 Principles (a). 2.4 Also to be commended are the total prohibition of cloning (Part III Section 19 (f) and a ban on the commercialisation of Human Assisted Reproduction Technology (Part I Section 9). ...

CASI submission on the 1997 Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill

- To view all CASI submissions, click [here](#)

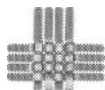
Papers

Can We Play God? Copies of five searching papers and discussion questions on issues of human bioethics, based on lectures by Prof Gareth Jones of Otago University from the 2003 Wanaka Summer School (See Broadsheet 88 and Broadsheet 90) can be supplied in hard copy for - [email us](#)

- To view all CASI papers, click [here](#)

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