

Tonight the topic of is stem cell research. By chance, a bill on stem cell research is coming before the New South Wales Parliament this very night. In December 2005, the framework for this topic was outlined in the Legislative Review Committee chaired by the late Honourable John Lockhart.

I take this opportunity to pay attribute to John Lockhart by echoing the tribute of the Legislative Review Committee:

*John Lockhardt was a highly regarded member of the international legal community. After being a Justice of the Federal Court of Australia for some 21 years, he was a member of the Appellate Body of the World Trade Organisation in Geneva and was able to draw on highly relevant experience in deliberating on contentious issues.*

*John was the only member of the Committee for whom the difficult issues of embryo and stem cell research were new. He saw them as challenging and exciting. He brought to the Committee both objectivity and wisdom derived from his long experience at the Bar and Bench.*

*He constantly challenged us to explain our thoughts in the way that a 'non-expert' could understand. He was always courteous, welcoming and empathic to those who made submissions to the Review Committee and he understood that there is a wide range of deeply held views on the difficult issues considered by the Committee. John's compassion and eloquence were especially evident when the report became public and he spoke to the media about the issues raised by the review and the range of views held within the community. The Committee's acronym the LRC could equally stand for the Lockhart Review Committee and we, like the wider community, will always think of it in that way.*