



## AUSTRALIAN CATHOLIC BISHOPS CONFERENCE

### **Media Release**

**May 2, 2006**

### **Catholic Church welcomes government funding for adult stem cell research**

The federal government's announcement of a \$22 million grant to Griffith University to establish a dedicated adult stem cell research centre was a wonderful boost for cutting edge, ethical science, the Catholic Church said today.

Bishop Eugene Hurley, Chairman of the Bishops' Committee for the Family and for Life, said the government funding was recognition of the excellent work being done in adult stem cell research at Griffith University.

The centre, to be headed by Professor Alan Mackay-Sim, Deputy Director of Griffith's Eskitis Institute for Cell and Molecular Therapies last year showed that adult stem cells from the nose could be grown into many types of cells, including heart, muscle, liver, kidney and blood cells.

They could ultimately develop treatments for brain diseases, such as Parkinson's Disease, motor neurone disease and schizophrenia.

"This funding will help those scientists to pursue stem cell research, using adult cells rather than using, and destroying, human embryos for research," Bishop Hurley said.

"The results so far have been groundbreaking and they will be used to help fight a range of serious diseases.

"This is exciting work and we congratulate the federal government for recognising and encouraging such efficient and ethical research in this way."

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