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Liberty Victoria Submission on the Patent Amendment (Human Genes and Biological Materials) Bill 2010

To the Senate Committee

Liberty Victoria welcomes the opportunity to comment on the Bill.

Liberty Victoria fully supports the proposed amendment stating that 'human beings, and the biological processes for their generation, are not patentable inventions'.

We believe the amendment is necessary to ensure the protection of biological knowledge. Biological processes are not inventions but are discovered. In addition, we strongly believe that the patenting of knowledge regarding biological processes offends human dignity and the proper universality of such knowledge. Neither humans nor knowledge as to how humans come to be so, should not be owned by private citizens or private companies.

We wish to make a further suggestion that 'gene sequences' should be added to the definitions of biological materials under s18(4).

Yours sincerely

Spencer Zifcak
President
Liberty Victoria