

Response to Question 7 regarding exemption of commercially available cell lines from needing human ethics review

I recommend that research involving the use of established human somatic cell lines be made exempt from review provided that they meet the following criteria:

- The established cell lines are commercially available or can be obtained from established repositories (e.g., ATCC) and;
 - The cell lines are either de-identified and not linked to any personally identifiable information or are identified and available in the public domain, and unlikely to cause harm to the original donor or their relatives.
 - The researcher will comply with any consent terms attached to the use of the cell line.
 - The proposed research will not develop the cell lines as therapeutics.
 - The proposed research will not use human tissue to develop new cell lines.
 - The proposed research does not involve the use or derivation of embryonic stem cells."

This will bring Australia into alignment with major Western countries including the UK, Canada and the US.