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To whom it may concern.

I understand that Government wishes to ensure that autologous stem cell therapy is appropriate and safe.

I am part of the Melbourne Stems Cell Centre's trial on arthritis on knee joints, which has been approved by the Human Research Ethics Committees of Monash and La Trobe Universities, this reassures me that the trial is being carried out in accordance with appropriate medical guidelines and practice.

I choose Stem Cell Therapy after being diagnosed as being in need of a total knee replacement by an Adelaide specialist and choose not to have the invasive surgery. As an autologous patient I believe it is appropriate that I use my own body parts to heal my own body.

It has now been three months since my one off stem cell treatment and I have found the pain relief to be amazing. At this early stage in the trial, I am virtually pain free and I am able to walk and sleep without any hindrance.

I have found the Melbourne Stem Cell Centre to be a total satisfying experience carried out by a truly professional team, operating from state of the art facilities.

From the initial consultation, to the aftercare follow up, it has been a delight to be part of the trial.

Being part of this Stem Cell Therapy Trial has made me realize that Australia is one of the few countries in the world where this therapy is being carried out, therefore our Government needs to ensure that stem cell research should continue so as to help people like me and the many others living with conditions that this therapy could help, either now or in the future

It is extremely important that any changes the Government considers as part of this Consultation does not limit the work or the options available to patients, many of whom live with crippling side-effects of their conditions

As a beneficiary of stem cell therapy, I trust that these considerations will be reflected by the Consultation and its outcomes in a way that does not deny patients access to treatments that may have significant benefit .

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input to the TGA's Consultation regarding the regulation of autologous stem cells.

Allan W Anderson

