

I am undergoing autologous stem cell treatment for knee osteoarthritis as a private patient.

I understand that the use of autologous stem cells is regulated differently to that of other therapeutic goods, which limits research into the risks, benefits and safety of autologous stem cells.

I found the Melbourne Stem Cell Centre (MSCC) through the Australia and New Zealand Clinical Trials Register.

I understand that the MSCC is researching the use of autologous stem cells for knee osteoarthritis as approved by the Human Research Ethics Committees of Monash and La Trobe Universities.

This was an important factor in my choosing the MSCC for this treatment.

I am hoping that autologous stem cell treatment will reduce the pain I have from knee osteoarthritis, and allow me to resume bushwalking that I've had to stop due to pain.

I understand that few other countries in the world are researching autologous stem cell treatments.

I urge the Government as part of this consultative process not to limit stem cell treatments to other patients, many of whom suffer significant morbidity from osteoarthritis and other conditions that might be amenable to these treatments.

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

Kind regards,

Dr Kipling Walker