



Online Submission Form for the review of the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988 (SA)

Contact Details

Confidential No

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Preliminary Data

What is your association to assisted reproductive treatment?: I am a donor conceived adult

If you belong to a company or organisation – what is the name of that organisation?:

Do you make this submission in your individual or professional capacity?: individual

If you live outside of Australia which country do you live in?: Australia

1. Please comment upon the requirement within the Act that the welfare of any child born as a consequence of assisted reproductive treatment (A.R.T.) is treated as being of paramount importance, and accepted as a fundamental principle, in respect of the operation of the Act, as well as in the provision of assisted reproductive treatment.: Submission re:

Review of the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988 (SA) 28/02/2016 I strongly support the review of the assisted reproductive treatment act and urge you to model the current legislation change that has recently taken place within Victoria. This change balances the rights for donors and the donor conceived adult by allowing access to identifying information for the donor conceived and giving the donor a choice of contact preferences. If these preferences are breached there are penalties in place. This would enable the donor conceived like myself to gain a further understanding of themselves and could also aid in providing them medical history that for some may be vital. Living in Victoria I have seen the positive affect of this bill passing amongst donors and donor conceived individuals in my community. It is much more than just legislation; this is changing the lives of people and giving them the chance to learn more about themselves and their biological parent if they wish to have contact. As a donor conceived child I always knew I was different. My strikingly pale skin, dark curly hair and eyes in comparison to my parents and brothers blue eye, light straight hair and dark complexion. I often wondered about these physical features and where they had come from, but as a child your thoughts only go so far. As an adult this really hit me. As my relationship was strained with my parents I felt more and more anxiety surrounding who I was, why I was so different and where I belonged in this world. I often wondered if my donor had strong genes and this is why I was such a black sheep in my family. I began the search for my donor as soon as I turned 18. I got sent from my GP to the hospital where I was born, to the blood bank and back. No one new how to help me or how to find my donor. By the age of 22 I had found the forms to apply for a search to be done for my donor. It was a difficult phone call when after months of waiting I was told the search was unsuccessful. A year and a half went by, many emails, dozens of different searches and hopeful media stints later, he was found in South Australia. In saying this I really want to reiterate how hard it was to even get to this point, the hours, time and money spent was exhausting. No donor conceived individual should ever have to go through this excruciating process to know more about themselves. My donor was open to contact and in meeting himself and his family I found a peace within me that I never knew could be felt. Such a relief, a weight of my shoulders to finally know my donor, that he wanted contact and that he was like me. All my questions answered and finally I knew exactly who I was. This positive outcome should be one that all donor conceived Australians get the chance at experiencing. At current in South Australia this is a very unlikely occurrence, but with changes such as following in Victoria's footsteps this would allow for much

needed change. Donor conceived people are the only minority group left in Australia who are denied access to information on their own biological parent. This is something that has to change. Victoria led the way back in 1984 when anonymity laws changed surrounding adoption. It is about time all of Australia gave these rights to the donor conceived individuals rather than the discrimination they are currently facing. In reading my story I am hoping that you can understand the curiosity and longing that donor conceived individuals feel in wanting to know their donor. It is human nature in wanting to know where you have come from and in saying this I feel that the rights of the child are paramount. I recommend the implementation of a legislation similar to Victoria in order to balance the rights of all stakeholders and to allow this long awaited change to flow through all the states in Australia. Please feel free to contact me anytime in regards to any questions you may have. All the best,
Chloe Allworthy [REDACTED]

2. Please comment upon the replacement of the previous licensing scheme with a registration scheme for A.R.T. clinics

3. Please comment on the dissolution of the SA Council on Reproductive Technology and its Code of Ethical Clinical Practice.:

4. Please comment on the effectiveness and operation of the legislation regarding access to assisted reproductive treatment in South Australia. In particular, the conditions set out in the Act and in the regulations that relate to the circumstances in which, and to whom, A.R.T. may be provided.:

5. Please comment on the effectiveness and operation of the Act in relation to it providing for the establishment of a donor conception register.:

6. Please comment on the effectiveness and operation of provisions within the Act for record keeping and confidentiality.:

Any Other Matter:



Government of
South Australia