

The logo for 'yourSAy' is displayed in a stylized, lowercase font. The 'y' is lowercase, while 'SAy' is uppercase. The logo is positioned on the left side of a horizontal banner that also contains a grayscale photograph of a group of people.

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

Contact Details

Confidential No

Contact Name: Mrs Danica Little

Contact Address1: [REDACTED]

Contact Address2:

Suburb: [REDACTED]

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Preliminary Data

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

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.: Equal importance

should be placed on the 'welfare of the adult' that the donor conceived child will grow up to be. Access to medical records pertaining to their genetic and medical backgrounds should be enshrined in, and protected by, law.

2. Please comment upon the replacement of the previous licensing scheme with a registration scheme for A.R.T. clinics Provision should be made not only for the standards and practices related to the medical procedures themselves to be monitored and supervised, but also for the record keeping and archiving systems maintained by each practice.

3. Please comment on the dissolution of the SA Council on Reproductive Technology and its Code of Ethical Clinical Practice.: It seems that the Council was not functioning as best it could, so dissolution and replacement with a better system is a good move forward.

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.: Inclusion of a provision for same-sex couples to access ART would be a nice addition. Families are not just 'mum and dad' after all.

5. Please comment on the effectiveness and operation of the Act in relation to it providing for the establishment of a donor conception register.: As far as I am aware there is no such register. One needs to be established and operated in a manner that is easy to access and actually functional. I would like to see the establishment of a proper department with the goal of archiving any and all records that do exist (especially those those of people conceived in the late 70s - early 80s). Ideally, the archivists would then be in a position to contact donors and directly ask them if they would welcome having their personal information (name, contact details etc) listed or if they would prefer to only have their medical information (possibly to be disclosed via a mediating doctor). Donor Conceived people would be able to enter their details into the register and see if there were any 'matches' - either with donors or siblings.

6. Please comment on the effectiveness and operation of provisions within the Act for record keeping and confidentiality.: As a person conceived in the early 80s, there are (reportedly) no records available regarding my donor - so I will say the effectiveness and operation of record keeping has been incredibly poor.

Any Other Matter: ART is an amazing development that has helped thousands of couples become parents. However, in the rush to help people 'have a baby' it seems that the industry has overlooked the fact that these babies will grow up and become adults who need to have access to their genetic, medical and social backgrounds for a variety of valid reasons. A donor register must be established that services the needs of the donor conceived person. This register should require donors to 'opt out' of disclosure, rather than 'opt in'. Promotion of the establishment of the register must, of course, give donors a reasonable chance to opt out if they so wish... but doing nothing should mean they are registered automatically.



Government of
South Australia

