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

Contact Details

Confidential No

Contact Name: Kimberley Turner

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Preliminary Data

What is your association to assisted reproductive treatment?: 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.: I am writing to you to

express my explicit support for all donor conceived people to have access to know who their genetics parents are, regardless of arbitrary factors such as: year of birth, method of conception and location of conception. I urge the South Australian Parliament to implement amendments to the current Assisted Reproductive Treatment Bill, to align with that of Victoria. Progressive laws in Victoria have addressed the former inequalities towards donor conceived people in their state, which other states in Australia need to look to as the best practice in upholding the rights of those affected by assisted reproductive treatments. These changes will provide equality to people who are currently denied integral medical, ancestral and identity information. As a 31 year old donor conceived adult, lack of this vital information has had a daily impact on myself and my family. I have not had a complete medical or familial history, which negatively affects both physical and mental health. A dear friend of mine, Narelle Grech, who was also a donor conceived adult, tragically, developed terminal bowel cancer and passed away at age 30. Had she known her paternal history, this fate may have been avoided. Narelle also suffered unnecessary mental anguish, as she searched for half of her life, trying to discover her origins. Many other donor conceived adults also experience such anguish. Donor conceived people are not looking for a replacement "Dad". I consider that to be the Man who raised me. However, we do need to know how we are connected to the world, to others and to ourselves. Connections are a fundamental part of being human. They are crucial for our well being, and they cannot be summed up in a clinical semen donor code. I respect that everybody has a right to privacy, and I would never intrude upon another person's. With the amendments, I believe privacy would be better managed, as those parties involved would know the other's contact preferences, and be obliged to act accordingly. Without this provision, a donor conceived person who has become aware of who their genetic Father is (or a genetic Father, who has become aware of who their genetic children are) may be uncertain how to manage attempts to discover more information. Please support changes to the current Bill to reflect that of which Victoria has adopted. Kind Regards,
Kimberley Turner

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