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Dear A/Professor Allan

Thank you for your letter of 15 February 2016 inviting the Office for Women to make a submission to the review of the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988* (the Act).

The Office for Women supports the ongoing need for the welfare of the child born by assisted reproductive technology (ART) to be of paramount importance as currently provided for in section 4A of the Act. It is therefore important to ensure that adults born by ART are able to access information about the process of their inception including information about donors. The paramountcy principle must extend beyond the inception of the child into their adult lives with regard to information about the ART process. As such, the Office for Women supports the development of the donor conception register which has been allowed for within the Act.

The Office for Women does not have the expertise to comment directly on the matter of regulation of ART clinics; however, it is important that there is no watering down of the current standards required of ART clinics in South Australia. Any gap in oversight of clinics not covered by the National Health and Medical Research Council Ethical Guidelines, once the Act is updated, should be covered by South Australian regulations or guidelines to ensure high standards are adhered to at all times.

The Office for Women supports the right of all women to access ART. As you would be aware, current Victorian legislation in the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008* s10(2)(a) states a woman may access ART if a doctor is satisfied that "in the woman's circumstances, the woman is unlikely to become pregnant other than by a treatment procedure". The current limitations within the Act do not allow for women in same sex relationships, women in relationships with transgender men, or single women to access ART. This is an outdated restriction which does not reflect our modern community. The Office for Women recommends that the Act is changed to contain wording similar to that of the Victorian legislation which would allow all women to access ART as appropriate.

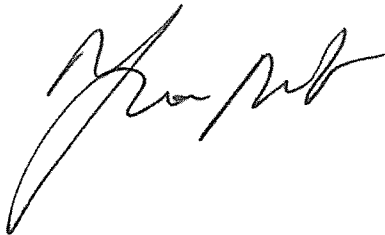
Finally, with regard to screening of potential parents it is important that doctors or clinics do not discriminate against women because of disability and perceived parenting ability, cultural background, or sexuality. Any screening process must remain completely objective.

In summary, the Office for Women makes the following recommendations to the review:

1. The guiding principle of the paramountcy of the welfare of the child is maintained;
2. A donor conception register is established in South Australia;
3. The high standard of regulation of ART clinics through the registration process must be maintained;
4. The Act should be updated to reflect the *Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008* and allow all women the option to access ART;
5. Any screening process must be objective and not discriminate against women on the grounds of disability, cultural background, or sexuality.

Thank you for providing the opportunity to make a submission to this review.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Fiona Mort', written in a cursive style.

Fiona Mort
DIRECTOR
OFFICE FOR WOMEN

21/4/2016