



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
Professor of Health Psychology specialising in reproductive health

If you belong to a company or organisation – what is the name of that
organisation?: Middlesex University, London, UK

Do you make this submission in your individual or professional
capacity?: As a Professional researcher

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.: Based on research

evidence and practice, the requirement that the welfare of any child born as a consequence of ART to be 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 is excellent and called for in research review articles calling for more accountability and long term consequences considerations of ART (see for example; .van den Akker, O. (2016) Reproductive health matters. *The Psychologist*. 29 (1) 2-5. and van den Akker O.B.A. (2013) For your eyes only: Bio-behavioural and Psychosocial research objectives. *Human Fertility*. 16(1): 89–93, because NOT considering all aspects of the welfare of the child puts them at a potential disadvantage in later life. The two other points I can comment on are: 1) allowing for the establishment of a donor conception register (evidence has demonstrated this fulfills a fundamental need in donors, recipient parents and adult offspring seeking genetic 'relatives (see for example van den Akker O.B.A. Crawshaw, M.C, Blyth, E.D and Frith, L.J (2015) Expectations and experiences of gamete donors and donor-conceived adults searching for genetic relatives using DNA linking through a voluntary register. *Human Reproduction*, 30 (1): 111-121; and van den Akker,O.B.A (2015) Chapter: Emotional and psychosocial risk associated with fertility treatment. *Reducing Risk in Fertility Treatment*, edited by Raj Mathur. Springer Science + Media); and 2) provisions for record keeping and confidentiality are particularly important in ALL forms of 3rd party conception including gamete/embryo donation and surrogacy (see e.g. Crawshaw M, Blyth, E and van den Akker O (2012) The changing profile of surrogacy in the UK – Implications for policy and practice. *Journal of Social welfare and family law*, 1–11). With regards to screening of potential parents, evidence suggests this could not only be in the best interests of the child, but also the parents, in for example surrogacy arrangements (see for example, Crawshaw M Purewal S and van den Akker O (2012) Working at the margins: The views and experiences of court social workers on Parental Orders' work in surrogacy arrangements. *British Journal of Social Work*. doi: 10.1093/bjsw/bcs045, and van den Akker, O.B.A (2007) Psychosocial aspects of Surrogate Motherhood *Human Reproduction Update*, 13,1, 53-62).

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.: Research experiences and practice on adoption has shown that accurate record keeping is essential.

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

