

5 April 2016

A/Professor Sonia Allan
A.R.T. Act Review
C/o Policy and Intergovernment
Relations Unit, SA Health
P O Box 287, Rundle Mall
ADELAIDE SA 5000

58.
The logo for VANISH features the word "VANISH" in a bold, green, sans-serif font. Above the letter "I" is a stylized graphic of a purple and pink bird or wing shape.

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Dear Sonia

Thank you for the invitation to make a submission to the review of the South Australian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988.

You are probably aware that VANISH has been very active in this area in Victoria working with the young people from the Donor Conceived Forum and Tangled Web. I would commend to you the changes to the Victorian Assisted Treatment Act 2008 that was amended in parliament this week. These changes are in large part a result of collaborative work and were introduced and passed by the Labor Government supported by the Green and a handful of cross benchers, liberals and nationals. The Hansard on these debates is available and informative.

In summary, the Minister for Health in Victoria announced last week that now, all Victorian donor-conceived people, regardless of when they were born, will have a right to identifying information about their donor, without having to receive consent from their donor. This will mean that donor-conceived people born before 1998 will have the same rights as those born after 1998.

- Contact preferences will be made available to donors and donor-conceived people, allowing them to determine the way in which contact with those with whom they are linked will occur. People will also have the option to choose a 'no contact' preference. If a contact preference is breached, a significant penalty may apply. Contact preferences will also be extended to those legal children of donors or donor-conceived people who are under the age of 18 years.
- Responsibility for managing the central and voluntary registers will be moved to VARTA. The amendments will also enable VARTA to be the 'one door in' provider of support and information to donors, donor-conceived people and their families, as per recommendations made by the Parliamentary Law Reform Committee. VARTA is anticipating a new service model and increased funding in the next budget.

VANISH has been discussing with the Minister for Health and Human Services and VARTA ways in which we may increase our search and support services for donor conceived people. We look forward to continuing to support this vibrant community.

The passing of these amendments was proceeded by the work by the Victorian Law Reform Commission on an inquiry into access to information by donor conceived individuals and lead to the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Further Amendment Act in 2014. These amendments encouraged donors to consent, but did not allow donor conceived individuals access to identifying information without the donor's consent. The response was consistent with the Commission's recommendation on the issue in its final report available at <http://www.lawreform.vic.gov.au/all-projects/art-adoption#sthash.811hdvXp.dpuf>.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if we can be of further assistance to your Inquiry.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Coleen Clare".

Coleen Clare, Manager, VANISH Inc.