

Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Ministerial Expert Panel – Minister for Health Update June 2022

Dear Minister Sanderson

I am pleased to advise that the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and Surrogacy Ministerial Expert Panel (MEP) has convened. The Panel's Terms of Reference which explain its role and state its guiding principles were endorsed by members at the initial meeting held on 7 June 2022. These will be published on the WA Department of Health website. The Panel will run until 31 December 2022. The Panel met twice in June (7 June and 21 June 2022) and covered a range of topics. The Panel is being supported by staff from the Department of Health.

Following the recommendations in the independent *Review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 and the Surrogacy Act 2008* by Associate Professor Sonia Allan, (Allan Review) the Panel will develop and endorse policy positions and recommendations on specific topics for new ART and surrogacy legislation.

Consistent with the Government's response to the Allan Review, the Panel will undertake a short, targeted consultation on specific issues where it was identified that further consideration was required. These are for inclusion in a final report that will be submitted to you for your consideration.

All policy positions and recommendations developed by the MEP will be informed by the following principles:

- the paramountcy of the health, rights and welfare of any child to be born from ART and surrogacy
- the health, safety and rights of those accessing ART, donors and surrogate mothers
- principles of non-discrimination
- the values of non-commercialisation of human reproductive materials and capabilities
- ensuring no exploitation of participants engaged in ART and surrogacy.

The Panel have developed a public discussion paper, which will be shared on the Department for Health website with invitation for comment from the general public. The Panel will soon also distribute a targeted survey on donor conception. Both documents will be supported by public forums – one for industry experts and one for consumers, representatives from advocacy groups and other key stakeholders. These will be held in July and September 2022, respectively.

I will update you on a monthly basis on the progress of the MEP, however, should you require or wish for further information regarding Panel activities at any time, please contact ART.Secretariat@health.wa.gov.au

Kind regards



Professor Roger Hart
Chair, ART and Surrogacy MEP

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