

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

Dear Minister Sanderson

I am pleased to provide you with an update on the progress of the Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) and Surrogacy Ministerial Expert Panel (MEP) for the month of August.

Consistent with the MEP's purpose and Terms of Reference, the Panel continues work to develop and endorse policy positions and recommendations on specific topics for new ART and surrogacy legislation in WA. The scope and focus of MEP activity follows the Government Response to recommendations in the independent *Review of the Western Australian Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 and the Surrogacy Act 2008* by Associate Professor Sonia Allan (Allan Review).

The MEP held two sessions during August. A meeting of the Panel on 16 August focussed on the regulation of ART in WA. Discussion at this meeting considered a range of factors relevant for future regulation of ART and surrogacy, including:

- Possible approaches to regulation by the Department of Health
- Consideration of a future ART and Surrogacy Advisory and Review Body to advise the Minister for Health and to undertake some mandatory approval functions
- Discussion on data collection and management, including the Reproductive Technology Registers.

The MEP meeting on 31 August focussed on donor conception and genetic testing. Discussion at this meeting considered a range of factors including:

- How donor conception impacts different cohorts of people. A stakeholder panel was held with speakers with lived experience across donor conception, including donor-conceived people, donors, donor-recipient parents, and fertility and donor conception counsellors
- The future of donor conception legislation and support services
- The approval process for preimplantation genetic testing for serious inheritable genetic conditions.

On 24 August, members of the MEP met with a number of WA fertility counsellors including members of the Australian and New Zealand Infertility Counsellors Association, to consider approaches to counselling in any new ART and surrogacy legislation.

The MEP is scheduled to meet again on 13 September, with targeted consultation continuing to be organised with key stakeholder groups throughout the month.

I look forward to providing you with the next monthly MEP update for September.

Kind regards



Professor Roger Hart
Chair, ART and Surrogacy MEP

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