



EMBRYO
DONATION
NETWORK

Embryo Donation Network Submission on Review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991

Embryo Donation Network present this submission for consideration as part of the discussion on access to information by donor conceived people. As the first and only Australian charity dedicated to providing information and support around embryo donation, we have first hand knowledge of the experiences of embryo donors, donor conceived people and recipients.

Embryo Donation Network was founded in 2012 by a group with professional or lived experience of embryo donation. We provide information, support and a popular classifieds service which allows donors and recipients to connect. We are also increasingly providing support for adults who were born of embryo donation. Over the last 5 years we have contributed frequently to the national discourse in this complex area, including in the media and in academic research. We are pleased to bring this experience to bear on the Review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991.

The donors, recipients and donor conceived people in our Network are supportive of increased organization and regulation of donor conception in WA, including a central collation of all records. We consistently hear that people are frustrated by the lack of a true central donor register for all donor conceptions in WA. Donors and recipients know that those born by embryo donation are entitled to their genetic history, no matter what year they were born. Embryo donors and recipients overwhelmingly want the level of government involvement in donor conception to increase, commensurate with the level of complexity and deep impact on those affected. Clinics alone do not provide the support and regulation required.

We call on the WA State Government to act on the recommendations of the Australian Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs References Committee (2011) on donor conception practices. We agree that there is an urgent need for a national agency responsible for managing information on every donor conception. In the absence of a national agency, we believe the WA Government should establish a WA agency, similar to the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority. This agency would fulfill important functions in providing a central register of all donor conceptions, specialised counselling, public education, and donor linking. Such an agency would be welcomed by the many constituents in our Network.

Angela Ferguson, Marieke McPhail and Megan Malkiewicz
Embryo Donation Network

March 2018