

Assisted Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Ministerial Expert Panel – Minister for Health Update July 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 July.

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 July. A meeting of the Panel on 5 July focussed on surrogacy. Discussion at this meeting considered a range of factors relevant for contemporary surrogacy legislation, including:

- access to surrogacy, including expanded access for groups currently restricted from engaging in surrogacy in WA
- maintaining the best interests and paramountcy of the welfare of the child to be born
- avenues to encourage and facilitate increased domestic altruistic surrogacy
- application and approval processes for surrogacy arrangements, including opportunities to streamline processes
- international commercial surrogacy and continued prohibition of all commercial surrogacy arrangements.

On 19 July, the MEP hosted an information sharing forum for ART industry and researchers. The event was attended by some 40 participants including nominated representatives from WA fertility clinics. Discussion at the forum ranged from access and eligibility to ART to contemporary models for regulation based on the welfare, health and safety of participants and children born of ART. Feedback from attendees on the development of new ART legislation, approach of the MEP and the forum event was positive. A further public forum for consumers, representatives from advocacy groups and other key stakeholders will be held in September.

The Panel has also recently released a public discussion paper and targeted survey on donor conception. These are available on the [Department of Health website](#) and have been actively disseminated and promoted to key stakeholders. Feedback received in response to these activities will support the second public information sharing forum in September, and work of the MEP to develop policy positions and recommendations.

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

Kind regards



Professor Roger Hart
Chair, ART and Surrogacy MEP

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