

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

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).

Feedback on the MEP Public Discussion Paper and Donor Conception Survey closed on Monday 5 September. Both the Paper and the Survey were emailed to 297 individuals or organisations who were identified as key stakeholders, and/or had provided a response to the Allan Review. The responses to the Discussion Paper were received from 42 people or organisations. The responses to the Donor Conception Survey were received from 268 people. This feedback is being used to inform the MEP Report and final recommendations.

The MEP held one session during September. An extended meeting of the Panel on 13 September focussed on:

- Feedback from the targeted public consultation
- Final considerations towards the future regulation of surrogacy
- Membership and duties of a proposed ART Advisory and Review Body
- Changes to donor conception in new legislation
- A review of some preliminary decisions and draft recommendations

On 30 September members of the MEP attended Derbarl Yerrigan Health Service to gain the perspective of Australian Aboriginal consumers and health professionals. The group shared their knowledge and experiences about Aboriginal people seeking fertility services for assessment or treatment; and highlighted the importance of receiving culturally safe care.

The MEP is scheduled to meet again on 4 October to consider last topics where decisions have not been finalised before we progress drafting recommendations for our final report.

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

Kind regards



Professor Roger Hart  
Chair, ART and Surrogacy MEP

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