

27 April 2022

Mr Peter Russo MP
Chair
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee
Parliament House
George Street
BRISBANE QLD 4000

via email: lasc@parliament.qld.gov.au



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Dear Mr Russo

Thank you for the opportunity to contribute to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee's considerations as part of its inquiry into matters relating to donor conception information.

AMA Queensland is the state's peak medical advocacy group, representing over 9,600 doctors across all parts of Queensland and across all areas of the health system. Our members are dedicated to ensuring that all Queenslanders have access to informed medical care.

The legal, ethical and social implications of accessing donor-identifying information can be dramatic for donors, recipients and their families. The ramifications of identifying donors warrant cautious consideration. Without diminishing the importance and complexity of issues associated with donor anonymity, this submission is limited to health and medical considerations associated with gamete donation.

Any reforms to governance and regulatory frameworks relating to donor conception information must ensure that a child conceived using donated gamete/s and his or her family have access to health and genetic information about the donor/s. Access to this information must be preserved and is independent of decisions about the retention of donor anonymity.

The Committee may be interested in reviewing the AMA's Position Statement pertaining to Ethical Issues in Reproductive Medicine. In the context of assisted reproductive technologies and in vitro fertilisation, the statement asserts that '[i]n order for the child and their family to be medically informed throughout the child's life, where donor gametes have been used they should be able to access health and genetic information related to the donor(s)'.¹

Should the Committee have any questions or would like additional information, representatives of AMA Queensland are available to appear before the Committee at your request.

Yours sincerely

Handwritten signature of Professor Chris Perry OAM.

Professor Chris Perry OAM
President
Australian Medical Association Queensland

Handwritten signature of Dr Brett Dale.

Dr Brett Dale
Chief Executive Officer
Australian Medical Association Queensland

¹ Australian Medical Association, 2019, *Ethical Issues in Reproductive Medicine* available at <https://www.ama.com.au/position-statement/ethical-issues-reproductive-medicine-2019>