

5.6 Benefits, risks and implications on donor conception practices arising from any recommendations.

The introduction of retrospectivity will bring significant benefits to people involved with donor conception practices, past and future:

- donor conceived people subject to anonymous donation will realise their human right to information about their genetic parents and siblings and be supported in the process;
- donor parents will get answers to their questions regarding the children they assisted to create;
- recipient parents will get support to tell their child(ren) and to navigate the new family dynamics
- media attention to the issue as it becomes public will encourage parents to advise their donor conceived children of their donor conceived status
- media attention will encourage individuals who suspect they might be donor conceived or adopted to connect with services and peer support groups for information and support.
- people considering donating their gamete will consider the needs and rights of the children when making this decision
- people considering third party reproduction will consider the needs and rights of the children which is not always in front of mind when going through infertility and fertility treatment.

There are often alarmist reports of sperm shortages which are said to be as a result of the fact that donors can no longer provide sperm donations anonymously. However the reality is that it not that there is a shortage but rather a huge increase in demand. It is VANISH's view that this demand is generated by the industry and media and is founded upon the general lack of understanding of the impacts of donor conception on the donor conceived person.

5.7 Other matters.

The committee has indicated it will consider whether any model should include information from private donor arrangements. VANISH is of the view that it should, as this would ensure equality for all donor conceived people, regardless of the conception process involved.

The committee has noted it will consider the costs of any proposal including a user-pays model. VANISH is of the view that it would not be appropriate to charge donor conceived people to be able to access information and services. It would, however, be appropriate to:

- require the clinics and other providers of assisted reproductive treatment to contribute to the costs of establishing and maintaining the central and voluntary registers. This would be in recognition of the fact that recipient parents, donor parents and donor conceived people are all their clients to whom they owe a duty of care, over and above their shareholders.
- include in the fees the clinic charges to intending recipient parents to undertake third party reproductive treatment, a set contribution to the cost of maintaining the central and voluntary registers to which they will provide information.

VANISH appreciates the opportunity to contribute to this important inquiry and welcomes further questions from the Committee.

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