




Speech By  
**Corrine McMillan**

**MEMBER FOR MANSFIELD**

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**ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY BILL**

 **Ms McMILLAN** (Mansfield—ALP) (3.06 pm): I rise to make a short contribution to the Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill 2024 on behalf of my community. The journey to becoming a parent is different for everyone. For a variety of reasons, society is seeing a rise in potential parents wishing to access assisted reproductive technology. I know that this technology has been used by many families in my community. I also acknowledge the sensitivities, financial expense, joy and, in some cases, devastation experienced by local families. I also acknowledge the tireless efforts of the families and donor-conceived people who have been advocating for this regulation for a long time now. I also acknowledge the great work of broadcasters like the SBS and the ABC who have recently cast a spotlight on those that provide this technology to families.

It is of utmost importance to this government that Queenslanders have confidence in assisted reproductive technology providers and know that they are being held to rigorous, ethical and clinical standards. This is what we would expect, and Queenslanders expect, of any medical fraternity providing a service to Queenslanders. It is also very important to my community. This bill demonstrates the Queensland government's commitment to improving health care for families and for women which forms part of our landmark Queensland Women and Girls' Health Strategy 2032.

Assisted reproductive technology providers in Queensland must be accredited with the Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee under the Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand. This bill will protect the welfare and interests of people who use assisted reproductive technology and people born through the use of this technology. This is critically important.

I now turn to the considerations for donor-conceived people. Over many years, a number of young people have had conversations with me about the importance of them knowing their genetic origins and the beneficial impact of being able to access information about their donor-conceived siblings and their mother or father. Our genetic heritage, especially for young people, is important as they develop their identity. The bill establishes an access to information framework which will allow all donor-conceived people, regardless of when they were born, to access identifying and non-identifying information about a donor when the information is held on the register. This will make a real difference to the lives of donor-conceived people and their families.

We have heard from the donor-conceived community about the ripple effect the search for answers and secrecy has throughout their lives—the questions about their medical history and ancestry and the yearning to understand that unknown part of themselves. We know that identity plays a significant role in our self-worth and sense of wellbeing. I again take the opportunity to thank the many individuals, organisations and groups who advocated for this historic reform. I thank the health minister for her work on this bill, as the committee has done. I commend the bill to the House.