



Speech By  
**Hon. Shannon Fentiman**


**MEMBER FOR WATERFORD**

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Record of Proceedings, 22 May 2024

## **MINISTERIAL STATEMENTS**

### **Assisted Reproductive Technology**

 **Hon. SM FENTIMAN** (Waterford—ALP) (Minister for Health, Mental Health and Ambulance Services and Minister for Women) (9.44 am): The journey to becoming a parent is different for everyone and we know those who struggle to conceive can experience stress, vulnerability and heartache. Thankfully, technological advancements mean that many of the barriers facing people living with fertility issues are no longer insurmountable. Our government has a proven track record when it comes to supporting Queensland families on this issue. That is why we recently invested more than \$42 million to boost fertility services for Queenslanders battling cancer or experiencing complex medical conditions by making IVF free. We have recently seen several troubling reports of failures of the self-regulation of assisted reproductive technology providers here in Queensland. We have heard stories from the donor conceived community about the impact it has on their sense of identity, constantly having to search for answers about their genetic history when the information is not readily available.

On behalf of the Miles Labor government, I want to thank those advocates and families for speaking up and bringing these issues to light. Because of them, today we will be introducing a bill to regulate assisted reproductive technology and create better protections for Queenslanders. These new laws and regulations will mean Queenslanders can have faith in the integrity of assisted reproductive technology service providers and be assured that providers who do the wrong thing will face consequences.

Critically, these new laws will also establish a donor conception information register. Donor conceived people have been clear: the option to know their own genetic origins should be their right. That is why we are investing to establish a central donor conception register that will give families a full history of their donor. Because we know this process can be emotional for many, we are also providing counselling services to support applicants, which was a recommendation of the parliamentary committee inquiry. Although these laws are long overdue, I am so proud to be part of a government that is supporting Queenslanders trying to start their family or expand their family and that is standing up for the rights of donor conceived people.