

Question on Notice

No. 1017

Asked on 12 October 2022

DR A MACMAHON ASKED THE ATTORNEY-GENERAL AND MINISTER FOR JUSTICE, MINISTER FOR WOMEN AND MINISTER FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC AND FAMILY VIOLENCE (HON S FENTIMAN) –

QUESTION:

With reference to the Inquiry into Donor Conception Information having made its recommendations to improve Queensland's vastly inadequate laws —

Will the Attorney-General advise when the government will introduce legislation to effect these?

ANSWER:

Access to donor conception information is an important issue, as countless Queenslanders have used donated sperm, eggs or embryos to start or extend their families. For those people who are conceived from donated gametes, it is important they can access information about their genetic identity to better understand their origins and to manage their health appropriately, leading to better physical and mental health outcomes.

This is why the Palaszczuk Government referred this important issue to the Legal Affairs and Safety Committee (the Committee) to consider what reforms are needed.

On 31 August 2022, the Committee tabled its report, making 20 recommendations under six headings, including that:

- all donor-conceived people should be provided with the right to know the identity of their donor when they reach the age of 18;
- a central register should be established;
- donor-conceived people and donors should be able to contact each other by mutual consent; and
- birth certificates of donor-conceived people should be annotated to note the fact of donor conception.

The Palaszczuk Government is carefully considering all recommendations made by the Committee.

Section 107 of the *Parliament of Queensland Act 2001* sets out the timeframes in which a Minister must respond to a parliamentary committee which recommends the Government or a Minister should take action on an issue and I confirm an interim response will be tabled on or before 30 November 2022.

It is important that we get any reforms to this area of Queensland's law right, which is why I have met with stakeholders and advocates to seek their views and will continue to work with stakeholders in the development of legislation.