



**AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION
(SOUTH AUSTRALIA) INC.**

1 December 2022

Ms Vicki Paynter
Senior Policy Officer
Department for Health and Wellbeing
E: health.donorconceptionregister@sa.gov.au

Dear Ms Paynter

RE: Proposed amendments to the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988* – the Donor Conception Registry

AMA(SA) offers this submission in response to the call for feedback on the proposed amendments to the Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 1988 and the Donor Conception Registry, as detailed at <https://yoursay.sa.gov.au/revised-art-act-amendments> and in the media release from Health Minister Chris Picton dated 19 November 2022.

We note that the proposed changes give South Australians who have been conceived through donor conception more access to information about their genetic heritage and relatives. We are aware that increasing numbers of people are seeking this information, which may contribute to knowledge about their medical history and understanding of their family background and relationships, and that there is growing public support for this more transparent policy and approach.

On behalf of AMA(SA) Council, I offer AMA(SA) support for the amendment and the increased access to information it will allow. However, we are concerned about the electronic security of this extremely sensitive and private information, especially in light of major data breaches in recent weeks. As such, we strongly recommend that the development and introduction of the mechanisms aligned with the legislation consider as essential components the means by which this information will be safe and secure, now and in future, within the public and private hospitals, clinics, surgeries and other entities that will be involved in gathering, storing and possibly sharing and transmitting it.

We also ask that assurances are in place to ensure those with possibly malicious or gratuitous interest cannot access information of no relevance to them, and that there is a clear and accessible means of obtaining redress or resolving disputes about custody or provision about the information, around which there is no obvious or real legal precedent. We welcome the opportunity to discuss this at any time. Please contact me via my Executive Assistant, Mrs Claudia Baccanello, on 8361 0109 or at president@amasa.org.au.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michelle Atchison'.

Dr Michelle Atchison
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President
Australian Medical Association (SA)

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