

ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY AND SURROGACY LEGISLATION

Statement by Minister for Health

MS A. SANDERSON (Morley — Minister for Health) [2.03 pm]: I rise to advise the house that, as the Minister for Health, I have established a ministerial expert panel to support the development of contemporary surrogacy and assisted reproductive technology legislation.

In August 2021, following the tabling of the government response to *The review of the Western Australian Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 and the Surrogacy Act 2008* by Associate Professor Sonia Allan, the government committed to the development of new assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy legislation in Western Australia. This legislation will include expanding the eligibility criteria to provide same-sex couples and single people with the opportunity to conceive a child through assisted reproductive technology. Equity of access will be provided for altruistic surrogacy, including consideration of women facing impending infertility, single men, people in same-sex relationships, transgender people and intersex people. A ban on commercial surrogacy will remain. Also under the new legislation, a streamlined process will be developed for surrogacy approval that is more consumer friendly. Contact between donor-conceived people and their biological donor will be supported, if this is desired and when both people consent.

The panel's terms of reference are to seek expert advice on specific elements of new assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy legislation; undertake targeted consultation on specific issues for which further consultation is required to best serve the needs of Western Australians; and develop and propose policy positions for elements of new assisted reproductive technology and surrogacy legislation for consideration by government.

The panel will be chaired by Professor Roger Hart. Professor Hart is currently a professor of reproductive medicine at the University of Western Australia, head of the reproductive medicine service at King Edward Memorial Hospital for Women and medical director at Fertility Specialists of Western Australia. Professor Hart is an internationally recognised expert in the field of infertility and has a strong international research profile in infertility and reproductive medicine with over 200 published papers. Other members of the expert panel include Dr Louise Farrell, OAM; Dr Angela Cooney; Dr Ian Hammond, AM; Mr Martin Kavanagh; Ms Rachel Oakeley; Ms Fiona Seaward; and Hon Dr Sally Talbot, MLC. I thank the chairperson and members for their engagement and look forward to hearing their recommendations and policy proposals.