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MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS: VICTORIAN ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT AUTHORITY - 1 JULY 2019 to 30 JUNE 2021

I am pleased to provide you with my Statement of Expectations for the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (the Authority). This Statement of Expectations is for the period 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2021.

As Minister for Health, I am committed to improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians. As you are aware, my responsibilities include administering the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008* designed to facilitate non-discriminatory assessed to assisted reproductive treatment and protect those accessing it, including any child to be born.

In April 2018, the Victorian Government commissioned a landmark independent review of assisted reproductive technology undertaken by Mr Michael Gorton A.M. This Statement of Expectations is subject to the outcomes of the findings of the review and may require amendments at a later stage to account for the review's findings.

Improving regulatory practice

Regulators must operate within a framework that enables them to maximise efficiency and effectiveness. The Statement of Expectations Framework for Regulators includes three mandatory criteria of good regulatory practice being timeliness, risk-based strategies and compliance related assistance and advice.

Therefore, the Authority's performance improvements include the following:

- continue to strengthen investigatory skills to support the range of regulatory tools available to respond to any potential or actual breach of the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008*
- setting up and undertaking a consultation to advise on regulatory and public education measures related to the use of adjuvants therapies.

Publishing and reporting requirements

I expect that the Authority will respond to this Statement of Expectations, outlining how it intends to achieve the performance improvements and targets set out in this Statement of Expectations. This response should include details of the specific activities that will be undertaken by the Authority.

The Authority is required to publish the attached Statement of Expectations performance improvements, and the Section's response to these on the Authority's website.

Reporting on the Authority's progress to achieve these Statement of Expectations performance improvements must be undertaken shortly after the conclusion of the 2019-20 and 2020-21 financial years on the Authority's website.

I look forward to the Authority working continuously towards achieving best practice in the administration and enforcement of regulation.

Yours sincerely



Jenny Mikakos MP
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Minister for Ambulance Services

28/6 /2019

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS: 1 JULY 2019 to 30 JUNE 2021.

Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority

This Statement of Expectations applies from the date of signature on this correspondence to 30 June 2021, or until otherwise amended. It sets out my expectations in relation to the Authority. I have identified the following performance objectives and opportunities to improve the Authority's regulatory performance.

Risk-based strategies

- Develop, publish and implement an updated risk assessment and risk management strategy as part of the Authority's Regulator Plan for 1 July 2019 to 30 June 2020. This will ensure monitoring and investigations are risk-based and outcomes focussed and will better enable the regulator to target regulatory intervention to improve compliance.
- Continue to strengthen investigatory skills to support the range of regulatory tools available to respond to any potential or actual breach of the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008*.
- Continue to build on the relationship with a key co-regulator, the Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee and consider and implement ways to collaborate in response to regulatory risk.
- Continue to build on relationships with other health sector regulators where Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority's regulatory responsibilities intersect.

Stakeholder consultation and engagement

- Seek sector feedback on the Authority's performance consistent with the requirements of the Better Regulatory Practice Framework.
- Implement obligations under the Right to Know amendments in an increasingly complex environment in an appropriate way to meet the expectations of stakeholders and to ensure compliance with the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008*.

Compliance related assistance and advice

- Determine the effectiveness of newsletters, website content and information provided at inter-clinic meetings in meeting informational needs of registered assisted reproductive treatment provider personnel.
- Provide implementation support to clinics to ensure a smooth transition to new laws relating to the definition of 'partner' in the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008*. The laws will remove the requirement for a married woman to seek the consent of her spouse to access assisted reproductive treatment using donor sperm if she is separated but not divorced from her spouse.

Timeliness

- Improve the assessment time for class applications to import donor gametes, by providing clear guidance and feedback in a timely way to registered assisted reproductive treatment providers.