

Assisted Reproductive Treatment (Donor Conception Register) Amendment Bill 2021

Consultation Summary

The draft Assisted Reproductive Treatment (Donor Conception Register) Amendment Bill 2021 (“Amendment Bill”) closed on 21 June 2021. This report provides an overview of the written submissions and survey results.

Key feedback themes

Feedback received through consultation on the Amendment Bill was overwhelmingly supportive of the establishment of the Donor Conception Register (“DCR”). It also identified many differing and complex legal, social, operational and ethical issues.

A summary of the key feedback themes is as follows:

Ensuring respectful and ethical access to the DCR

Consultation feedback indicated many different views on what would constitute appropriate access to the DCR. For example, there were differing view and ideas on:

- The appropriate model for the intermediary support service;
- Who may have access to sensitive information within the DCR, and under what conditions;
- Whether donors should be advised, and/or donor consent should be sought, before their information is accessed via the DCR;
- Should counselling be mandatory; and if so, for whom and to what extent;
- Expertise and qualifications required by the support service;
- Interaction between the existing role of Assisted Reproductive Treatment clinics and the DCR.

Consent and disclosure of identifying donor information (particularly where a donation was provided prior to 2004 where the donor was promised anonymity)

Feedback overwhelmingly supported the right of access by donor conceived persons to donor information, recognising the welfare of the child as the paramount consideration. However, consultation feedback indicated many different views on how the disclosure of donor information to donor conceived persons should occur. For example, there were differing view and ideas on:

- Whether consent should be sought from the donor before their information is released;
- Whether the donor is able to issue a non-legally binding ‘statement of wishes’ about contact preferences; or should the donor conceived person be subject to a ‘consent veto’ by law;
- Whether the donor should be told about release of their information at all;
- The level of support available for donors when their information is released.

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Provision of counselling and support services

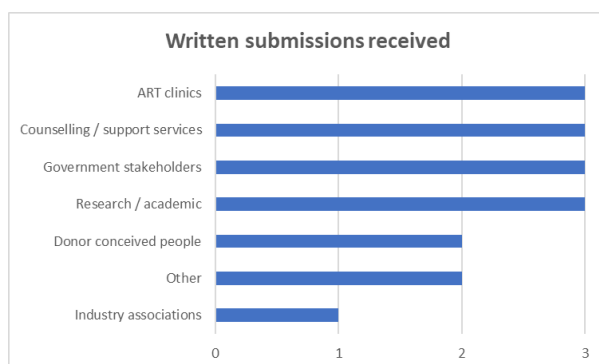
Consultation feedback indicated provision of counselling and support services is very important to those who responded, with this topic generating the greatest feedback response. There were many differing views on how and what support services should be provided, and to whom, including:

- The expertise and qualifications required to provide the service;
- Whether counselling should be mandatory or voluntary, or required at all;
- If counselling were made available and/or mandatory, to what extent should it be provided/required, and to whom;
- Interaction between Assisted Reproductive Treatment clinics' existing donor linking and counselling services and the DCR support services;
- Should support services be available for persons involved in privately arranged donor fertilisation procedures;

Inclusion of donor information on birth certificates

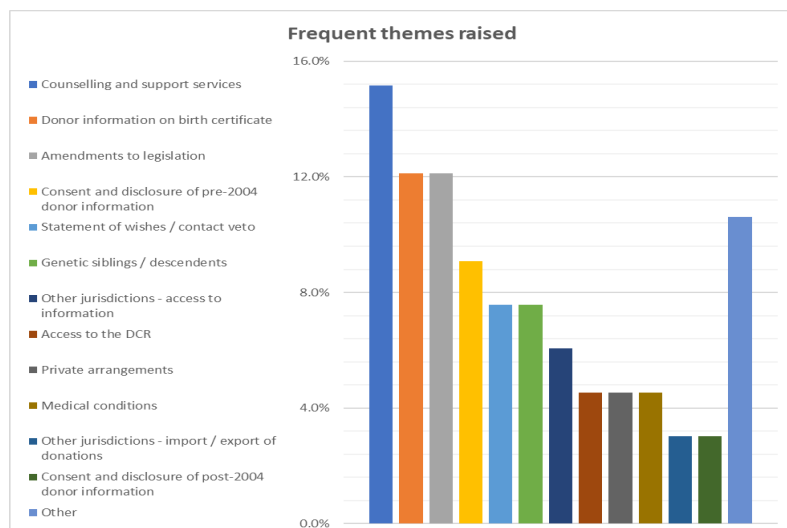
There were many feedback responses received, and opposing views, on the inclusion of donor information on birth certificates.

Written Submissions



17 written submissions were received

**Provision of
Counselling and
Support Services
was very
important to
respondents**

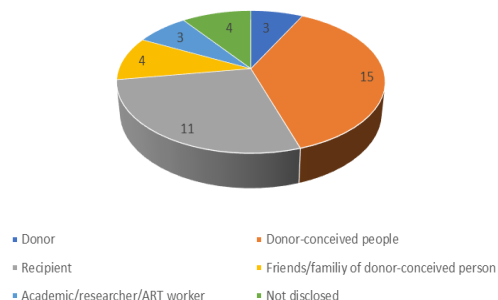


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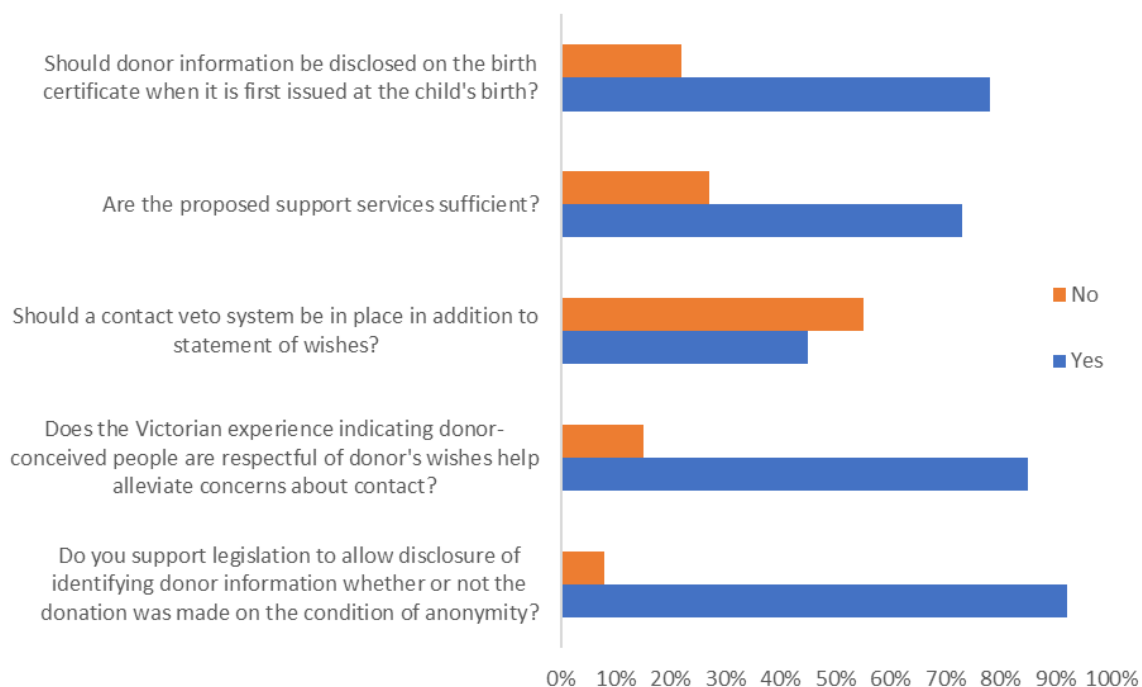
General surveys

More Donor Conceived Persons and Donor Recipients completed the surveys than any other group

Number of general survey respondents

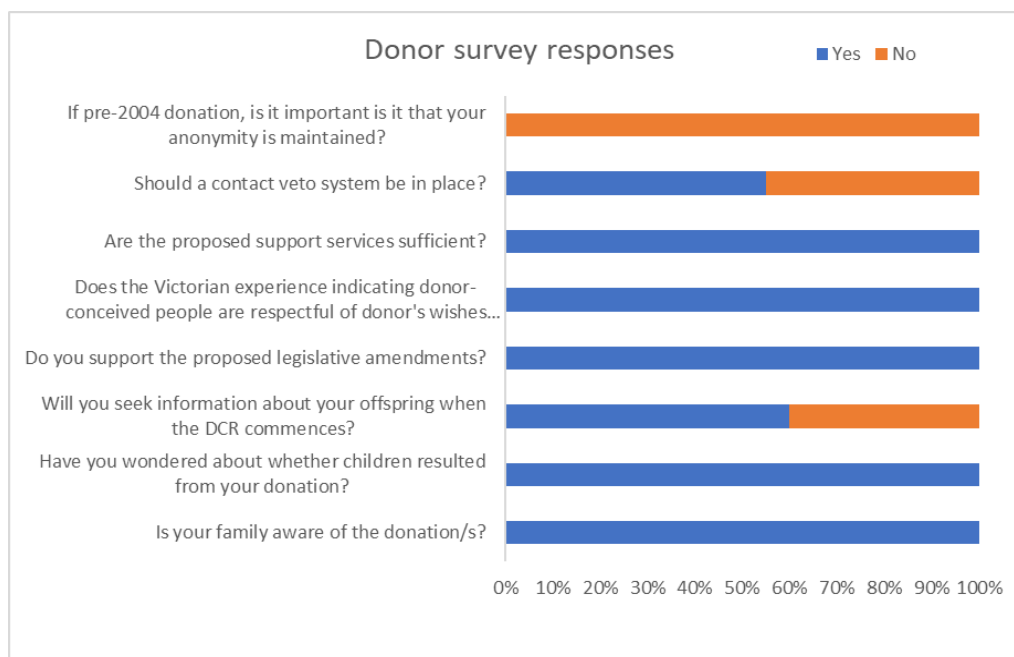


General survey responses



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Donor surveys



Ten donor surveys were completed with nine completed by people who provided a donation prior to 2004

For more information

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