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Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

6 September 2019

AIHW Amendment Bill 2019 Submission

Dear Committee

Surrogacy Australia is an Australian charity representing in part the interests of Australian couples and singles engaging in IVF processes with egg donors and or surrogates in the hope of creating family. Many of our members have engaged with the Australian IVF sector unsuccessfully for many years.

We are closely involved with international best practice in IVF success rate reporting and note that jurisdictions such as the UK and USA have excellent systems in place (through the HFEA, SART and CDC) to report clinic-based success rates and make these publicly available.

Many Australians who have poor success in Australian IVF clinics choose instead to engage with US clinics, given they can choose a clinic with audited, high success rates.

Any elective medical procedure such as IVF techniques, where there are generous MBS subsidies in place, such as the Australian context, needs to ensure that there is transparency and accountability on the side of IVF service providers.

In the interests of Australians being able to make informed choices about potential clinics to engage with, as well as to make IVF clinics more accountable, Surrogacy Australia strongly supports the proposed bill.

In regard to the mechanics of data collection, it is vital that

- this is a streamlined, efficient process to minimise additional flow-on costs to end-users
- there is an auditing process in place to ensure clinics are honestly reporting

As the National Perinatal Epidemiology & Statistics Unit at the University of NSW is already collecting this data on an annual basis, it may make more sense for this unit to be tasked with this more granular reporting, as long as independence from the IVF sector can be assured.

Yours sincerely

Sam Everingham

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