

INFERTILITY TREATMENT AMENDMENT BILL

Statement of compatibility

Ms PIKE (Minister for Health) tabled following statement in accordance with Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act:

In accordance with section 28 of the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities, I make this statement of compatibility with respect to the Infertility Treatment Amendment Bill 2007.

In my opinion, the Infertility Treatment Amendment Bill 2007, as introduced to the Legislative Assembly, is compatible with the human rights protected by the charter. I base my opinion on the reasons outlined in this statement.

Overview of the bill

The bill amends the Infertility Treatment Act 1995 by modifying the existing regulatory framework to allow somatic cell nuclear transfer under licence for research purposes, while retaining the existing prohibition on human cloning for reproduction.

The proposed Infertility Treatment Amendment Bill will have the same effect as the recent amendments to the commonwealth bill and will apply them to parts 2A and 4A of the Infertility Treatment Act 1995 to bring the Victorian legislation into line with the commonwealth legislation as amended.

There will be no change to assisted reproductive treatment (ART) procedures or clinical treatment procedures regulated by other parts of the act.

The amendment is restricted to parts 2A and 4A of the act which deal with medical research.

Human rights issues

1. Human rights protected by the charter that are relevant to the bill

The bill has no human rights impacts.

2. Consideration of reasonable limitations -- section 7(2)

As the bill has no impact on human rights it is not necessary to consider section 7(2) of the charter.

Conclusion

I consider that the bill is compatible with the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities because it does not raise a human rights issue.

HON. BRONWYN PIKE MP

Minister for Health