

Notes of meeting with Adjunct Professor Ken Daniels, Canterbury University
16 August 2012

Attendees:

Dr John Angus, Chair, ACART

Adjunct Professor Ken Daniels, Canterbury University

In attendance:

Betty-Ann Kelly, Senior Policy Analyst, ACART Secretariat

Feedback received on the proposals:

- The consultation document is well written.
- ACART will receive a diverse range of feedback on the proposals. As with past consultations, ACART will face the challenge of taking into account the different ethical, spiritual, and cultural perspectives in society, as required in principle (g) of the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004.
- The proposed amended wording describing the medical criteria appears to make progress in clarifying the scope of the criteria.
- The proposed amended guidelines continue to require that there be at least one genetic parent. It could be argued that there is no need for such a requirement, using the parallel of adoption.

Other points noted:

- There is a need to shift the relationship paradigm from donor family plus intending parents' family, to a paradigm that talks about two families (Ken noted a forthcoming paper on this issue).
- There was continuing concern about the fate of past donation records, in cases where providers or doctors cease business – there is a risk that such records will be discarded or be lost. More people are now telling their offspring that a donor played a role in their creation – it is important that records are available to assist donor offspring to access information about donors.
- The March 2012 report of the Victorian Law Reform Committee's Inquiry into Access by Donor-Conceived People to Information about Donors took a strong position on access to information for donor offspring – access should be possible even where past donations were on the basis of anonymity.

http://www.parliament.vic.gov.au/images/stories/committees/lawrefrom/iadcpiad/DCP_Final_Report.pdf