

# The Fertility Society of Australia IVF DIRECTORS

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## **Australian Institute of Health and Welfare Amendment (Assisted Reproductive Treatment Statistics) Bill 2019**

**Hearing. Melbourne Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019**

**Preliminary Submission from**

**The IVF Directors Group on behalf of Australian IVF Units**

**Submission in lieu of an Opening Statement to the Committee**

1. The FSA is the key academic body representing all professionals and patients they care for in Australia and New Zealand.
2. The IVF Directors Group is a sub-committee of the FSA with a remit to make representations re legislative and regulatory matters that affect the practice of fertility medicine and patient access.
3. The IVF Units and the FSA with the NPSU voluntarily set up the world's first national data base of IVF treatment results in 1983. Australia historically and currently is regarded as a world leader in the analysis and publication of data related to IVF treatment outcomes. This is the oldest IVF Data registry in the world.
4. The data collection was designed as a resource for research and advancing and improving treatment. It is also used as an audit and regulatory tool by the IVF accreditation body, RTAC. (Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee)
5. Since 1983 the data base has undergone continuous revision and evolution to reflect the profound changes in available treatments in this medical specialty.
6. The FSA/IVF Directors/IVF Units accept there is a demand for more consumer orientated information about IVF treatment outcomes to enable patients to be better informed about the scope of treatments and results relating to specific providers.
7. The FSA/IVF Directors/IVF Units have committed to work efficiently and effectively with Government to deliver such publicly available data which is transparent and easily interpreted by patients.
8. The representative patient group, ACCESS, is part of the joint working group which has been established to provide this outcome. The input by the consumer representative has been essential and extremely valuable and been part of the FSA since its inception.

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9. The FSA/IVF Directors/IVF Units are committed to the development of an online pregnancy predictor tool to help patients at an individual and personal level understand their likely success rates from IVF treatment. This tool would be used in parallel with the proposed information site set up with this Bill. Therefore the 2 websites would provide snapshots of individual clinic success rates and personalised statistical outcomes.
10. The long-established data base developed by the NPESU and the University of NSW is essential in the development of these websites and the provision of this information.
11. The FSA/IVF Directors/IVF Units are strongly opposed to transferring the administration, analysis and publication of their data to the AIHW and support the continued involvement and leadership of the NPESU.

**David Molloy**

*Chair*

*IVF Directors Group*