



Professor Mike Ryan

Community Affairs Legislation Committee

July 14, 2021

Re: Inquiry into the Mitochondrial Donation Law Reform (Maeve's Law) Bill 2021

Dear Committee Members,

I welcome the invitation and opportunity to provide a submission to the abovementioned Bill.

I am a biochemist at Monash University with a research focus related to mitochondrial function and mitochondrial disease. I am also a member of the Scientific Medical Advisory Panel for the Mito Foundation and have been active in the support of mitochondrial donation in Australia.

I believe that the draft legislation is appropriate and fulfils the intended goal of developing approaches towards minimising the risk of a woman's children inheriting mitochondria that would otherwise predispose them (and/or successive generations along the maternal line) to mitochondrial disease. The 'clinical trial' proposed will enable those parents wanting to access mitochondrial donation as soon as possible to do so whilst also permitting the introduction of mitochondrial donation into clinical practice in the future.

I believe that the relevant NHMRC committees and expert groups proposed to oversee mitochondrial donation are appropriate and proportionate. I do feel that it is important however to ensure that the NHMRC Licensing Committee either includes or has access to the support and advice of a clinician expert in mitochondrial medicine, given the broad range of medical issues that can be involved in patients with mitochondrial disease. This could be addressed by amending Subdivision C, 28J, point 4 by replacing "may" to "should".

Yours sincerely,

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