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MEDIA RELEASE

Parliamentary Committee recommends comprehensive change to the management of donor conception information in New South Wales

Inquiry report released today

The NSW Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety tabled its report on the management of donor conception information today. 'There are currently many hurdles facing people who wish to access donor conception records in New South Wales,' said Committee Chair, Mr John Barilaro MP. 'These hurdles include poor record keeping by clinics. The Committee was alarmed to hear that some donor conception records may have been lost or destroyed.'

'For these reasons, the Committee recommends establishing a single agency to manage all donor conception information, irrespective of when that information was created. The Committee also recommends that, as a matter of urgency, the *Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2007* be amended to make it an offence to destroy, tamper with or falsify donor conception records.'

The Committee also examined the issue of retrospective access to donor conception information. Mr Barilaro said, 'The Committee considers that access to identifying donor conception information should always be made possible where all parties to donor conception consent. We believe that the recommendations we have made around access to information being dependent on consent by all parties strike a balance between fulfilling the wishes of donor conceived people to know their genetic heritage and respecting the wishes of those who donated anonymously to maintain their privacy if they wish.'

The report also makes a number of recommendations to improve services for donors, donor conceived people, and their families, such as improving community education, public awareness campaigns, counselling, intermediary support and DNA testing. 'Support services should be bolstered and provided by the same agency that is established to manage donor conception information,' said Mr Barilaro. 'Having a single agency responsible for the management of donor conception information and support services would create a system that is simple and easy to navigate.'

'National consistency in the management donor conception information is important and we hope that the recommendations made in this report bring us closer to achieving this,' Mr Barilaro said.

A copy of the report may be downloaded from www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandsafety.

For further comment please contact Mr John Barilaro MP, on 02 6299 4899.