

House of Representatives
Supplementary Order Paper

Wednesday, 6 October 2004

Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill

Proposed amendments

Judy Turner, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

Clause 5

To omit the definition of **embryo** (lines 1 to 3 on page 20), and substitute the following definition:

embryo includes a zygote and a cell or a group of cells that has the capacity to develop into an individual

Clause 6

To add, (after line 20 on page 22), the following subclauses:

- (4) Any report provided under **subsection (2)** stands referred to the Regulations Review Committee in order to ascertain the desirability of the making of an Order in Council.
- (5) No Order in Council made under **subsection (1)** may come into force until the Regulations Review Committee has reported to the House of Representatives on its examination of the report referred to the committee under **subsection (4)**.

Clause 9(4)

To omit from paragraphs (a) and (b), the words “(exclusive of any day during which the development of the embryo is suspended)” (lines 28 to 29 and 31 to 32 on page 23).

Clause 11

To insert, after the word “**embryos**” in the heading (line 16 on page 24), the words “**and gametes**”.

Clause 33 (4)

To add, after paragraph (f) (after line 15 on page 37), the following paragraph:

- (g) 1 or more member from the Office of the Commissioner for Children, able to advocate specifically for children (offspring).

New clause 35A

To insert, after clause 35 (after line 29 on page 39), the following clause:

35A Guidelines to be referred to committee of the House of Representatives

- (1) Any guidelines presented under **section 35(3)** must, by resolution of the House of Representatives, be referred to a committee of the House of Representatives for examination.
- (2) A committee to which guidelines are referred under **subsection (1)** must report to the House of Representatives not less than 6 weeks after the referral.

Explanatory note

This Supplementary Order Paper amends the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Bill by—

- amending the definition of **embryo** so that stem cells are not excluded, given that an embryo is predominantly stem cells at this stage.
- requiring that advice from the advisory committee is referred to the Regulations Review Committee before the Governor-General can make an Order in Council which declares that a procedure or treatment is an established procedure.
- amending the definition of **specified day** so that the day in which the embryo is suspended is not excluded from the 14-day period.
- clarifying that restrictions on sex selection include any procedures that would choose gametes in order to increase the probability that an embryo will be of a particular sex.
- requiring that the advisory committee include at least one member from the Children's Commission who will be able to advocate specifically for the offspring.
- requiring that a committee of the House of Representatives scrutinise guidelines produced by the advisory committee.