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Media Release

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Sheed welcomes Assisted Reproductive Treatment Amendment Bill

Independent member for Shepparton District Suzanna Sheed welcomed the passing of the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Amendment Bill 2021* in the Legislative Assembly this week.

The bill aims to make the assisted reproductive process more accessible and affordable for all families across Victoria.

Ms Sheed said she was pleased that the bill would extend assisted reproductive services to regional areas, allowing nurses and other trained professionals to carry out artificial insemination under the supervision of a doctor or an assisted reproductive clinic.

“This will give regional families access to the process locally rather than travelling to Melbourne,” Ms Sheed said.

“The opportunity for people living in regional communities to access the treatment close to home and to be able to go home after they have had a treatment, is an opportunity that will be very welcome.

“The cost of access to assisted reproductive treatment is even more expensive when you factor in travel and accommodation in Melbourne.”

Ms Sheed said women often experienced anxiety, stress and emotional pain when undergoing multiple treatments of IVF.

“It’s not only women who undergo this process; the pain is often shared by partners and other family members,” Ms Sheed said.

Many members of parliament, including Ms Sheed, discussed their reproductive journeys, the strong desire to create a family and for many, the difficulties of conception. They welcomed the continued developments in assisted reproductive treatments and acknowledged the law needed to keep up with these developments.

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