

Submission form

Please provide your contact details below.

Name:	Ben Langdon and Rob Grieve
If this submission is made on behalf of an organisation, please name the organisation:	N/A
Please provide a brief description of the organisation if applicable:	N/A
Address/email:	
Interest in this topic (eg, user of fertility services, health professional, member of the public):	We are an intended user of fertility services

We will place all submissions on ACART's website, except where we are asked that submissions be withheld in full or part for reasons of confidentiality. We will remove contact information from all submissions.

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I **request** that my submission be withheld in full or part from publication on ACART's website (if you wish a part to be withheld, please clearly indicate which part).

Please note that all submissions may be requested by any member of the public under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). If there is any part of your submission that you consider should be properly withheld under the Act, please make this clear in your submission, noting the reasons.

If information from your submission is requested under the Act, the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) will release your submission to the person who requested it. The Ministry will remove your name and/or contact details from the submission if you check one or both of the following boxes. Where a submission is made on behalf of an organisation, the Ministry will not remove the name of the organisation.

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I **do not** give permission for my name to be released to persons under the Official Information Act 1982.

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I **do not** give permission for my contact details to be released to persons under the Official Information Act 1982.

We will acknowledge all submissions. A summary of submissions will be sent to those who request a copy. The summary will include the names of everyone who made a submission, except where individuals have asked for personal details to be withheld.

Do you wish to receive a copy of the summary of submissions?

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Yes

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No

Questions about the proposed amendments to the guidelines

Question 1

Do you agree with ACART's conclusions that:

- the surrogacy guidelines currently discriminate on the basis of sex and sexual orientation, and
- the discrimination is not justified in light of the principles of the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004?

Yes

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No

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Please give reasons for your views.

Everyone should be able to access the benefits of human assisted reproductive technology (HART). There is no justifiable basis for restricting the benefits of HART to a specific gender or specific type of sexual relationship.

Question 2

Do you agree with ACART's view that surrogacy should be used only where there is a need, and not for convenience?

Yes

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No

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Please give reasons for your views.

While we strongly believe that everyone should be able to benefit from HART regardless of sex or sexual orientation, HART should only be used where there is a need and not simply out of lifestyle choice/convenience.

In our opinion, allowing HART to be used for convenience could potentially give rise to black market/under the table commercial surrogacy (something which Parliament was clearly intent on preventing under the HART Act). Acting as a surrogate mother is an incredible sacrifice and it is difficult to see someone making such a sacrifice without compensation simply because a woman/couple (who could naturally conceive and carry their own child) elected to "outsource" the pregnancy for reasons of lifestyle/convenience.

Question 3

Do you have any other comments on ACART's proposed amendments to the *Guidelines on Surrogacy Arrangements involving Providers of Fertility Services*?

No

Question 4

Do you agree with ACART's proposal that single men and male couples applying to ECART to enter a surrogacy arrangement should also be able to apply to use eggs donated by a family member?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

The ability for male couples to utilise eggs donated by a family member can enable a male couple to have a child which shares a genetic connection with both of the male parents. The genetic bond to both of the male parents approximates the genetic bond of a child conceived through a heterosexual relationship.

There obviously need to be some restrictions placed to ensure that there is sufficient genetic "distance" between the sperm and the donated eggs however we believe that these concerns are adequately addressed in the proposed draft guidelines.

Question 5

Do you agree with ACART's proposal that single women and lesbian couples should be able to apply to ECART to use sperm donated by a family member without needing a medical justification?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

The reasons are largely the same as those given above in response to question 4.

Question 6

Do you agree with ACART's view that the use of eggs or sperm donated by a family member should be possible only where intending parents do not have their own eggs or sperm, or if they do, that there is a medical reason for them not to use their own eggs or sperm?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

If the intending parents are capable of conceiving and carrying their own child then they shouldn't be able to use donated eggs or sperm (whether from family members or otherwise). HART should be used to assist those who are unable to have children of their own rather than simply allowing people to "select" eggs or sperm which they consider to be preferable.

Question 7

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about either the proposed amendments to the guidelines or the associated discussion?

No