

# Feedback form

Please provide your contact details below.

Name:	Dr Mary Birdsall
If this feedback is on behalf of an organisation, please name the organisation:	Fertility Associates
Please provide a brief description of the organisation if applicable:	Fertility clinic
Address/email:	c/o jpeek@fertilityassociates.co.nz
Interest in this topic (e.g. user of fertility services, health professional, researcher, member of public):	Fertility clinic

Please refer to page v for information about:

- Publication of feedback on ACART's website
- Official Information Act requests – possible release of you feedback
- Official Information Act requests – possible release of you name and contact details

We will acknowledge all feedback.

- ☐ I **request** that my feedback 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.)
- ☐ I **do not** give permission for my name to be published on ACART's website.
- ☐ I **do not** give permission for my contact details to be published on ACART's website.

If you consider that your feedback, or your name and contact details (if you are submitting on behalf of an organisation), should be withheld under the Act, please state the reasons here:

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

# Questions for response

---

## Question 1

*Refer to sections 3 and 4.*

- (a) Do you agree with ACART's assessment of the known risks and benefits to health associated with the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

Currently more than 70 children have been reported born after the transplantation of cryopreserved ovarian tissue. The ACART report from Dr Claus Andersen overviews the risks and benefits to the health of the woman and child. We agree with the assessment of the unknown risks and benefits.

- (b) Are there any risks and/or benefits associated with the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function that ACART has not identified or assessed?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If yes, please list below.

## Question 2

*Refer to section 4.*

- (a) Do you agree with ACART's conclusion that the risks associated with the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function falls within a level that is acceptable in New Zealand?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

The major risk associated with the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue is the possibility of reintroducing malignant cells. The conclusion that the risks are acceptable considering the benefits seems very reasonable. ACART's observation that the risks and ethical issues could be addressed in discussion between a patient and her clinician would be very appropriate.

- (b) Please note any other comments below.

We support the recommendation that patients with leukaemia should only undergo ovarian tissue freezing during remission.

### Question 3

*Refer to section 4.*

- (a) Has ACART identified all the relevant areas to monitor the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

It is important that an accurate register is kept so that outcomes may be clearly identified. Areas to monitor should include method of freezing, method of tissue transfer, whether assisted reproductive technology was subsequently used, and long term health of women and children.

- (b) Are there any other areas ACART should monitor?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

We are participating in setting up an international oncofertility database and guidelines with Australian colleagues.

## Question 4

*Refer to section 5.*

- (a) Has ACART identified all the ethical issues relevant to the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

The use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue is consistent with the HART Act 2004. Women are able to consider the benefits and risks and so decide whether it is in the best interest.

It is currently unfair that women who have ovarian tissue stored are unable to use this tissue in New Zealand. We would hope that if ovarian tissue cryopreservation and its use becomes an established procedure, that the Ministry of Health will consider funding the service.

- (b) Do you agree with ACART's ethical analysis that there are no significant ethical issues associated with the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function?

Yes ☐ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

## Question 5

*Refer to section 6.*

- (a) Do you agree that the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function should become an established procedure?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

The use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue is available in many other countries and it is timely for New Zealand women to have this option.

- (b) Please note any other comments below.

## Question 6

*Refer to section 6.*

Do you agree with ACART's position that the scope for the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue to restore ovarian function be limited to the woman from whom the tissue was excised, for her own treatment?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

We agree with this position as the tissue has a small risk of containing malignant cells. It is important that any children born as a result of transplantation are able to know their genetic origins.

## Question 7

*Refer to section 6.*

Do you have any further comments to share with ACART?

Fertility Associates are very supportive of the consultation document. We agree with all of ACART's recommendations.