

Advisory Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology

Import and Export of Gametes and Embryos: Proposed advice to the Minister of Health

Feedback Form

Please provide your contact details below.

Name:	
If this feedback is on behalf of an organisation, please name the organisation:	
Please provide a brief description of the organisation if applicable:	
Address/email:	
Interest in this topic (eg, user of fertility services, health professional, researcher, member of the public):	Past users of fertility services in NZ and overseas

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	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). Please withhold name and contact details.
-------------------------------------	--

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

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

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I do not give permission for my name to be released to persons under the Official Information Act 1982.
-------------------------------------	--

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	I do not give permission for my contact details to be released to persons under the Official Information Act 1982.
-------------------------------------	---

We will acknowledge all feedback.

Questions about the proposals discussed in the paper

Question 1: Import and subsequent use of gametes and embryos

Do you agree that the principles and requirements of the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004 should apply in all cases where people wish to import into and use in New Zealand gametes and embryos sourced or created in other countries?

Yes ☐ No ☒

Please give reasons for your views.

The Act seems to offer some protections from exploitation. But where gametes and embryos are sourced from reputable sources, i.e. clinics that operate in similar way to NZ, they should be allowed to import clinic to clinic. Reputable overseas clinics could be on a list held by ACART.

Question 2: Export of gametes and embryos

Do you agree that export of gametes and embryos should be possible, provided that:

- the subsequent use of gametes or embryos is consistent with the principles and requirements of the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004, including any prohibitions, and
- all gamete providers, including donors, have given informed consent to the export of their gametes or of embryos created from their gametes?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

The uses overseas for gametes and embryos are likely to be for the same reasons as NZ, i.e. to achieve a pregnancy, except they are perceived to occur faster and without as much red tape overseas.

Question 3: Decisions about import and export for assisted reproductive procedures

Do you agree that fertility services providers should continue to make decisions about whether the import and export of gametes and embryos for assisted reproductive procedures is consistent with the principles of the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004, and New Zealand requirements?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If you disagree with the proposal, who or what should make decisions about whether the import and export of gametes and embryos for assisted reproductive procedures is consistent with New Zealand requirements?

Please give reasons for your views.

Clinic to clinic transfers are a better safeguard that the intended use is consistent with HART.

Question 4: Decisions about import and export for human reproductive research

Do you agree that the role of the Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology in respect of human reproductive research should explicitly include considering and deciding applications to undertake human reproductive research involving imported and exported gametes and embryos?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If you disagree with the proposal, who or what should be responsible for making decisions about research involving imported and exported gametes and embryos?

Please give reasons for your views.

Research in this field is potentially controversial and could involve ethical issues. So the Ethics Committee involvement is appropriate.

Question 5: Regulations

Do you agree that regulations should be made about the requirements for the import and export of gametes and embryos?

Yes ☐ No ☐

If you disagree with the proposal, how should requirements for import and export be set out?

Please give reasons for your views.

Undecided about this question.

Question 6: Donor compensation

Do you agree that the Ministry of Health should be asked to consider guidance to fertility services providers that allows for increased levels of donor compensation, particularly for egg donors?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Do you agree that such guidance should, for consistency, include the expenses available to surrogates?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If you agree with the proposals, do you have a view about appropriate maximum levels of compensation to donors?

Maybe \$3000 for egg donors.

Surrogates should be openly compensated. This already happens in underground arrangements. Our experience overseas is that compensating the surrogate for expenses and paying fee does not diminish the relationship in any way, provided the surrogate has been properly screened well beforehand. The surrogate's motive for doing surrogacy must be altruistic over financial rewards. We think a figure of \$20,000 - \$30,000 for the surrogate for successfully completing surrogate pregnancy is appropriate.

Please give reasons for your views.

This will encourage more egg donors, who will have to be screened first for medical issues etc.

This will stop some of the underground arrangements.

Question 7: Public health information

Do you agree that the Ministry of Health should be asked to consider public health information about:

- the impact of age and other factors on fertility, and
- gamete donation?

Yes ☒ No ☐

Please give reasons for your views.

More official information helps the public make better informed decision.

Question 8: Data about offshore fertility treatment and outcomes

Do you agree that the Ministry of Health should be asked to consider strategies for collecting data about the use and outcomes of offshore fertility treatment by New Zealanders?

Yes ☒ No ☐

If you agree, do you have ideas about how such information could be collected?

If the environment is open and supportive, then people may be encouraged to come forward and voluntarily inform their GP and health authorities they are going overseas for fertility treatment. Then perhaps put it as an option, as a reason for travelling, on the NZ Departure card at the airport. Then they can be followed up by MoH upon their return so long as the follow-up is empathetic and not treated as another bureaucratic questioning process.

Please give reasons for your views.

The more data the better practices in NZ can help infertile people make informed decisions about what they would do. It can also debunk some myths about offshore fertility treatments.

Question 9: Comments or suggestions

Do you have any other comments or suggestions about the issues discussed in this proposed advice paper?

Make laws and regulations that are "friendly" and supportive towards infertile people so they do not feel stigmatised and feel the need to work underground.