

Minutes

Meeting of ACART and Fertility Associates to discuss ACART's work on the use of cryopreserved ovarian tissue

Date 1 July 2016
Time 10.00 – 11.00 am
Location Fertility Associates, Remuera, Auckland
Present John Peek, FA
Karen Buckingham, ACART
Martin Kennedy, ACART Secretariat (scribe)

Welcome

1. John welcomed Karen and Martin. Karen summarised why ACART is doing this work. John explained that the staff had discussed the consultation document in anticipation of this meeting and will also make a written submission.

Discussion

2. John explained that Fertility Associates (FA) supports ACART's proposed advice to the Minister.
3. There was a discussion about if and how the procedure could be funded if it becomes an established procedure. FA would prefer that public funding should not be taken from budgets for fertility treatment.
4. FA noted that the numbers of girls/women who would receive the treatment would be small even if the procedure was publically funded. FA also noted that the freezing of ovarian tissue would tend to be used more often when a cancer was serious, because collecting the tissue involved an operation and removal of all or part of an ovary. Due to the serious nature of the cancers, not all of the girls/women who have tissue frozen will have it reimplanted.
5. There was a discussion about if and how the freezing and reimplanting of the tissue could be monitored. It might be possible to add a requirement for the data collection similar to New Zealand's ANZARD reporting.

Unrelated topic

6. FA were interested to know how the Ministry was progressing with its work on the import and export of gametes and embryos.
7. Martin explained that the Ministry has the topic on its work programme and that progress has been slower than expected due to other work taking priority. The Ministry (ACART Secretariat) will keep the sector abreast of the Ministry's progress.

End.