

M8

**Consultation on import and export of gametes and embryos**  
**Meeting with Associate Professor Andrew Shelling and Dr Debbie Blake**  
**Auckland University**  
**4 June 2013**

**Present**

Associate Professor Andrew Shelling

Dr Debbie Blake

Dr John Angus, Chair, ACART

**In attendance**

Betty-Ann Kelly, ACART Secretariat

*Note: The points listed below reflect comments by individuals and should not be taken as a consensus by meeting attendees.*

*Assisted reproduction*

- New Zealand providers need to give patients more information. It is not clear whether people are heading overseas fully informed about the associated risks for themselves and any resulting pregnancies/children.
- Expenses paid to donors in New Zealand could be increased. The risk of the level of expenses being an incentive for multiple donations could be managed by limiting egg donation to a maximum number of cycles e.g. two cycles.
- There could be a database of screened overseas clinics with standards assessed as being the same as those that apply in New Zealand.
- While sex selection for non-medical reasons is perhaps not a significant issue, there is some nervousness about how sex selection might be regarded and used by some ethnic communities.

*Human reproductive research*

- Research associated with import and export of gametes and embryos needs to be based on informed consent by donors. It also needs to include maintaining standards through association with laboratories and research institutions with the same standards as in New Zealand.
- Good procedures are already in place in regard to human reproductive research. It should not be possible to obtain sperm samples without informed consent by the sperm donors.

