

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):	User of fertility services

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.

☐ 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 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.

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

☒ 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.

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.

They belong to the parents they are intended for and therefore they should have every right to access them and If they choose to leave the country, They would take them with them. They should also be able to transfer them to another clinic overseas who have a better rate of success or different procedures. There are so many different procedures done overseas that it is to benefit the couple using them to take them elsewhere and give them the best shot they can have.

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?

I think ECART should make that decision.
Alternatively, Family courts.

Please give reasons for your views.

They don't stand to make money out of the procedure and therefore it is an unbiased, unswayed decision. With Fertility services standing to lose thousands of dollars by a couple taking their treatment elsewhere, that can blur their decision to release the embryos or/and gametes.

The couple have paid for that service, if they feel they can get a better chance and greater odds elsewhere they should be allowed to. Therefore having a party who has no gain or loss of the outcome to push their decision, it would be best for all involved.

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.

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.

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?

Donors, certainly no more than \$5k
Kidney donors can get up to \$4k – It is certainly of equal value in the whole scheme of things.

Surrogates, up to \$10,000

Please give reasons for your views.

For surrogates, you pay every other part/employee of all aspects of fertility treatment, doctor, obstetrician, etc to have a baby, but you can't pay a surrogate to carry the baby. The one person who has a huge impact on the safety of that baby being grown and delivered.

I certainly believe that surrogates – Gestational and Traditional should be entitled to be paid to carry. They sacrifice so much and at times are left out of pocket to give this wonderful gift to a couple who otherwise couldn't have a family.

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.

In NZ, the donor has to have finished their own family. When people aren't generally starting their family until their 30's at least, this is a huge decline already. If they were allowed to donate as they do in the states then it would encourage people to think about their age, and fertility.

There are risks involved and not everyone will want to do it, but let them decide instead of making that decision for them. Some people may not want kids at all and therefore are less likely to donate with the belief they would be turned down from being accepted because they would be seen to not have finished their family.

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?

Please give reasons for your views.

Question 9: Comments or suggestions

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