

The Central ART donor register

What is the central ART donor register?

The Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2007 (ART Act) and the Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation 2009 (ART Regulation) establish a central ART donor register (Register).

The Register will contain information about donors and children born as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes (sperm and ova).

Individuals conceived using donated gametes (once they turn 18), their parents and donors will be able to access certain information on the Register.

When will the Register start?

The ART Act and the ART Regulation will commence on 1 January 2010.

This means that if conception, using donated gametes, occurs on or after 1 January 2010 it will be mandatory for information about the donor to be included on the Register once a child is born.

However, the ART Act and Regulation also establishes a voluntary register for conceptions occurring before 1 January 2010.

What information will be included in the Register?

The Register will include the following information about a donor:

- the donor's full name,
- the residential address of the donor,
- the date and place of birth of the donor,
- the ethnicity and physical characteristics of the donor,
- any medical history or genetic test results of the donor or the donor's family that are relevant to the future health of:
 - a person undergoing ART treatment involving the use of the donated gamete;
 - any offspring born as a result of that treatment;
 - any descendents of any such offspring;

- the name of each ART provider who has previously obtained a donated gamete from the donor and the date on which the gamete was obtained, and
- the sex and year of birth of any offspring of the donor.

The Register will include the following information about a child born as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes:

- the donor conceived child's full name, sex and date of birth; and
- the name of the woman who gave birth to the child, and
- the full name and date and place of birth of the donor of the gamete.

The information on the Register will only reflect the circumstances of the donor, and any offspring of the donor, as at the time the donor donated his or her gametes, unless the donor provides updated information to the Register.

Who can access information on the Register?

The following information on the Register can be accessed:

Adult donor conceived individuals will have access to:

- a) the full name of the donor,
- b) the residential address of the donor,
- c) the date and place of birth of the donor,
- d) the ethnicity and physical characteristics of the donor,
- e) any medical history or genetic test results of the donor or the donor's family that are relevant to the future health of:
 - i) a person undergoing ART treatment involving the use of the donated gamete, or
 - ii) any offspring born as a result of that treatment, or
 - iii) any descendent of any such offspring,

- f) the name of the ART provider who provided the above information, and
- g) the sex and year of birth of each other offspring of the donor.

Other adult offspring of the donor (not through donation) will have access to:

- a) Sex and year of birth of each other offspring of the donor.

Parents of a child born through donation will have access to:

- a) the ethnicity and physical characteristics of the donor,
- b) any medical history or genetic test results of the donor or the donor's family that are relevant to the future health of:
 - i) a person undergoing ART treatment involving the use of the donated gamete, or
 - ii) any offspring born as a result of that treatment, or
 - iii) any descendent of any such offspring,
- c) sex and year of birth of each other offspring of the donor.

The Donor will have access to:

- a) the sex and year of birth of each offspring of the donor.

The information on the Register will only reflect the circumstances of the donor, and any offspring of the donor, as at the time the donor donated his or her gametes, unless the donor or offspring provides updated information to the Register.

Who provides the information to the Register and who maintains the Register?

ART providers will be required to collect certain identifying and non-identifying information about a donor at the time the donor donates his or her gametes.

If a child is born as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes, the ART provider must provide the information about the donor and the donor conceived child to the Director-General of the Department of Health for inclusion on the Register.

There is no requirement on the donor to provide updated information to the Register, although a donor may provide updated information if she or he chooses to.

The Director-General of Health maintains the Register and is responsible for ensuring that information is maintained securely and that the information is accessed only by those people with appropriate authorisation.

Do I have to get counselling before I access information on the Register?

The ART Act does not require a person to obtain counselling before they access information on the Register. However, it is recommended that you seek counselling before obtaining access to information on the Register. Counselling may be provided through the ART provider who provided the ART treatment or by an independent counsellor. You are responsible for any costs incurred in seeking counselling.