

The Voluntary Donor Register

What is the Voluntary Donor Register?

The *Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2007* (ART Act) and the *Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation 2014* (ART Regulation) establishes a Voluntary Donor Register (Voluntary Register) to contain information about individuals conceived prior to 1 January 2010 as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes, and donors who donated gametes prior to 1 January 2010.

The Voluntary Donor Register only includes information about donors and donor conceived individuals that has been voluntarily provided to the Voluntary Register by those donors and donor conceived individuals.

The Voluntary Donor Register is separate to the Central Register which was also established by the ART Act and contains information about donors and children born since 1 January 2010 as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes. Since that date it has been mandatory for information about every child born alive as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes to be provided to the Central Register.

What information can be included on the Voluntary Register?

Donors may provide any, or all, of the following information to the Secretary, NSW Health for inclusion in the Voluntary Register:

- 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 sex and year of birth of each other offspring of the donor,
 - g) the name of the ART provider to whom the gamete was provided,
 - h) the date on which the gamete was provided.

Individuals conceived prior to 1 January 2010 as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes may provide any or all of the following information to the Secretary, NSW Health for inclusion in the Voluntary Register:

- a) the full name, sex, residential address and date and place of birth;
- b) any medical history or genetic test of the individual or the individual's family that are relevant to the future health of the donor or any descendants of the donor.

Who can access information on the Voluntary Register?

Information on the Voluntary Register can only be disclosed in accordance with the consent of the person who provided the information to Voluntary Register.

This means, that if a donor, or donor conceived individual, wants to include his or her information on the Voluntary Register, he or she must also advise as to who can have access to the information.

Can information be removed from the Voluntary Register?

Yes. If you have provided information to the Voluntary Register, and you later change your mind, you can have the information removed from the Voluntary Register by notifying the Secretary, NSW Health in writing.

I was conceived before 1 January 2010, can I find out the details of my donor?

If you were conceived before 1 January 2010, you can only access information about your donor if the donor provides his or her information to the Voluntary Register and consents to providing that information to you.

If the Voluntary Register does not contain information about your donor, the ART provider who provided the ART treatment may be able to assist you in contacting the donor. However, if the donor wishes to remain anonymous, the ART provider may not be able to give you information about the donor.

In providing information for the Voluntary Register you may be able to provide additional information that assists in matching donor and offspring information such as a clinic's donor code or the name of the ART provider who undertook the procedures.

It is also important to remember that the reliability of information on the Voluntary Register and of records kept by the ART provider cannot be guaranteed. You may wish to consider genetic testing to confirm biological links.

Contact details

Email: artphcu@doh.health.nsw.gov.au

Telephone: (02) 9424 5955

SHPN (PHC)140374



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