

# The ART Central Register

## What is the ART Central Register?

The *Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2007* (ART Act) and the *Assisted Reproductive Technology Regulation 2014* (ART Regulation) establishes a Central Register (Register) to contain information about donors and children born as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes (sperm and ova).

Information held on the Register can be accessed by people who were conceived using donated gametes once they turn 18 years of age.

Parents of children conceived using donated gametes, donors and other offspring of donors are also able to access certain information on the Register.

## When did the Register start?

The Register commenced on 1 January 2010 when the ART Act commenced. The ART Act requires that certain information is provided to the NSW Ministry of Health for inclusion on the Register within two months after the birth of every child born as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes.

The ART Act and ART Regulation also established a voluntary register to contain information about children born as a result of ART treatment using donated gametes prior to the commencement of the ART Act on 1 January 2010.

## What information is included on the Register?

The Register includes the following information about each **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 includes the following information about every **child** born as a result of ART treatment using a donated gamete:

- the child's full name, sex and date of birth;
- 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 reflects 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 provide updated information to the Register.

## Who can access information on the Register?

**Adult donor conceived individuals are entitled to 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) are entitled to have access to:**

a) the sex and year of birth of each other offspring of the donor

**Parents of a child born through donation are entitled to 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) the sex and year of birth of each other offspring of the donor

**The Donor is entitled to 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 provide updated information to the Register.

## Who provides information to, and maintains the Register?

ART providers are required to collect certain identifying and non-identifying information about each donor at the time the gamete is donated.

When 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 Secretary, NSW 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 Secretary, NSW Health, maintains the Register and is responsible for ensuring that the information is maintained securely and that the information is accessed only by those people with appropriate authorisation.

## Counselling before access to 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 counselling is sought before obtaining access to information.

Counselling may be available through the ART provider who provided the ART treatment or by an independent counsellor. The person seeking counselling is responsible for any costs incurred in obtaining counselling.

### Contact details

Email: [artphcu@doh.health.nsw.gov.au](mailto:artphcu@doh.health.nsw.gov.au)

Telephone. (02) 9424 5955

SHPN (PHC)140379



Health