

The Gift of Life:

Many people are only able to fulfil their dream of having children with the aid of egg, sperm or embryo donors. These are altruistic people prepared to donate their eggs, sperm or embryos to others. Donors need to be aware that the interests of the child conceived are paramount. People receiving donated eggs, sperm or embryos are encouraged to tell any children conceived of the donor's contribution. All births of children conceived using donor eggs, sperm or embryos must be notified to the Department of Internal Affairs, Births, Deaths and Marriages Division, along with the identity of the donor(s). This information is available to the children when they reach 18 years of age.

Eligibility:

If you would like to assist others in achieving a family, please consider the eligibility criteria listed below:

People wishing to donate gametes or embryos include those:

- Not in a high risk AIDS group.
- Compliant with all relevant legislation and regulation relating to donation of gametes. (Human Assisted Reproductive Technology (HART) Act 2004; RTAC Code of Practice; Status of Children Amendment Acts 1969, 1987, 2004, 2007)
- Aware that identifying details (name, date and place of birth) will be registered with the Department of Internal Affairs, Division of Births, Deaths and Marriages, on the birth of a child.
- Aware that any donor children can access to this identifying information when they reach the age of 18, and their parents or guardians can access it at any stage.
- Agree to limit births to no more than 4 families.
- Prepared to undertake screening tests for infectious and genetic diseases.
- Prepared to undertake repeat screening tests following quarantine of sperm, eggs or embryos.
- Prepared to undergo counselling (This includes with partner if relevant) Joint counselling of donors and recipients is required if both parties are known to each other. For embryo donation, donor and recipient couples must meet and undergo joint counselling.
- Prepared to consider the possible long-term responsibilities and implications of being a donor.
- Able to provide a genetic family medical history.
- Prepared to release medical information to the recipients to enable informed consent.
- Ideally between 21 and 36 years of age if an egg donor. Egg donors older than this may be used with appropriate consultation with the recipients.
- Ideally between 21 and 40 years of age if a sperm donor. Sperm donors between 40 & 45 may be used with appropriate consultation with recipient couple.
- Prepared to have semen or embryos quarantined for 6 months.
- Aware of the risks associated with treatment.
- Prepared to complete a Lifestyle declaration form.

Screening tests are required to assess the health status of the donor. These include:

Initial Testing:

- Medical examination
- HIV I & II (AIDS tests)
- Hepatitis B
- Hepatitis C

- Blood group
- Cystic Fibrosis
- Syphilis - TPHA
- Gonorrhoea
- Chlamydia
- TSH, FSH (egg donors only)
- Ultrasound scan (egg donors only)
- Semen analysis (sperm donors only)

Following 6 month semen / embryo quarantine:

- HIV I & II
- Hepatitis B & C
- Syphilis

A Gift

By law, any donor may be reimbursed for reasonable expenses incurred in connection with donation, such as travelling expenses, but must not be given any valuable consideration for the donation (such as money or a discount or priority in the provision of a service). Donations are not accepted from individuals or couples during a treatment cycle.

Under the Status of Children Amendment Acts 1969, 1987, 2004, 2007, maternity and paternity is with the recipient couple. Legally the donor is not responsible for any offspring.

Donors will be informed of the number and sex of children born after the use of their donated oocytes, sperm or embryos.

Contact:

If you meet the eligibility criteria and wish to assist by donating eggs, sperm or embryos, please contact Reception on 03 375 4000 and you will be connected to the appropriate donor co-ordinator.

