



# VARTA

Victorian Assisted Reproductive  
Treatment Authority

16 February 2022



## Victoria's Central and Voluntary Registers and Donor Linking

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ABN 94 021 324 852

VARTA is an independent statutory  
authority funded by the Victorian  
Department of Health



[www.varta.org.au](http://www.varta.org.au)

# VARTA's Information & Donor Registry Services Team

## Manager

- Claire McCole

## Information Officers

- Carrie Farley-Roche
- Kath Herring

## Information Assistant

- Bec Price

## Counsellors

- Andrea Phillips
- Lilian Rodan
- Amelia McDermott
- Emily Hunter (maternity leave)

# VARTA's Information & Donor Registry Services Team

## Our Role

- record donor conception **births** on the Central Register and report to the Victorian Births Deaths & Marriages
- provide **advice, education** and **support** to people involved in donor conception
- process **applications** for information from the Central and Voluntary Registers
- provide **counselling** to people applying for information from the Registers
- **outreach** and **support** to subjects of Register applications and their families
- **connect** donor families through **donor linking**

## The Central Register



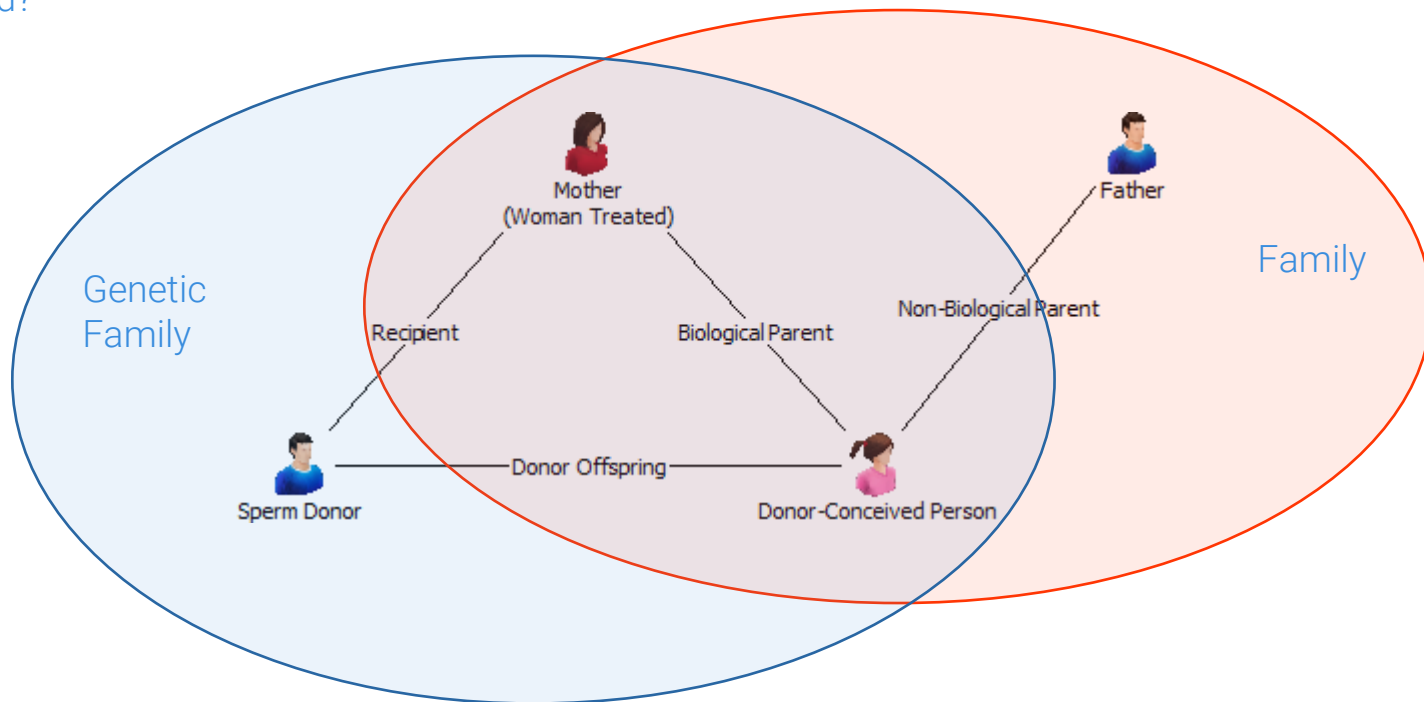
# The Central Register

Who is recorded?

  
Donor-Conceived Persons

  
Parents

  
Donors



# The Central Register

## Who is recorded?



Donor-Conceived Persons



Parents



Donors

## What information is recorded?

- Name
- DOB
- Contact details
- Treatment and birth details

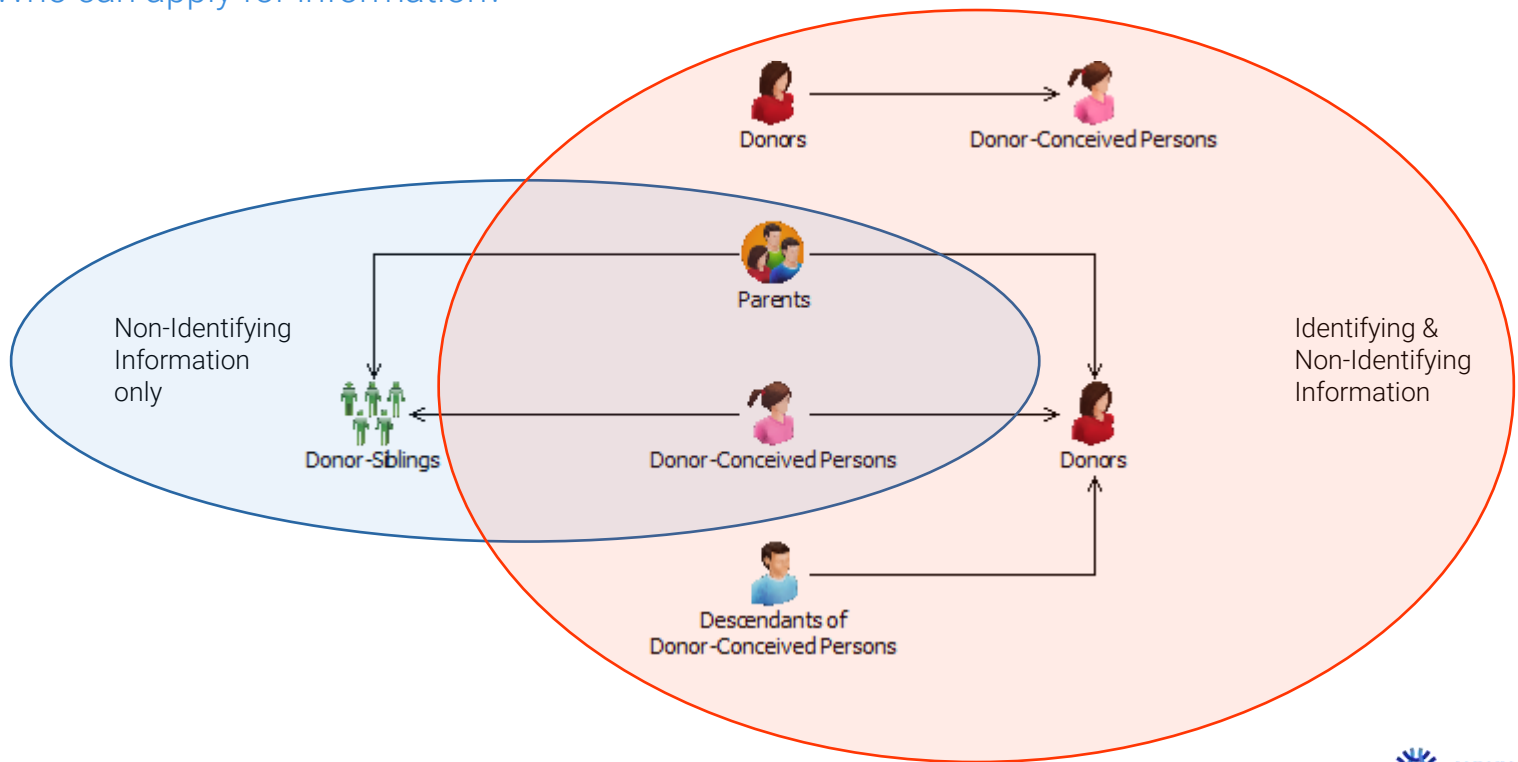
Identifying  
Information

- Gender
- Donor details
  - Physical features
  - Education, work and family background
  - Interests and hobbies
  - Genetic conditions

Non-  
Identifying  
Information

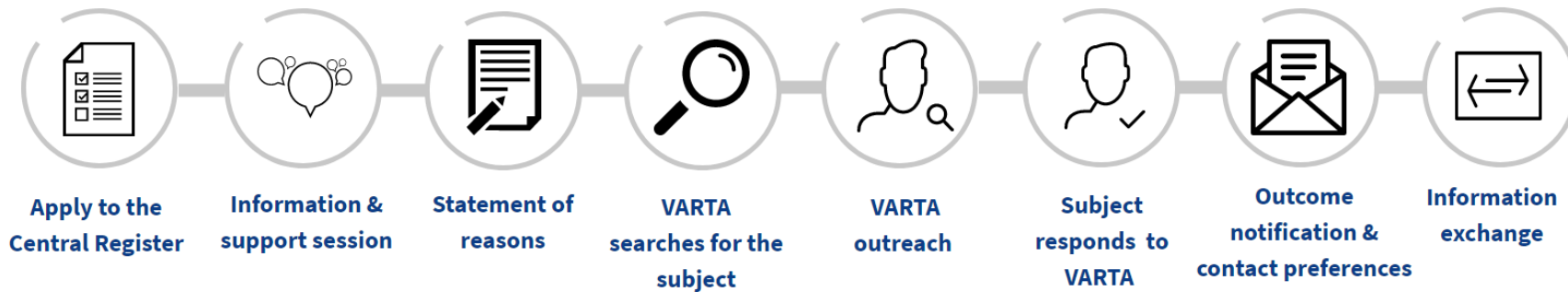
# The Central Register

Who can apply for information?



# The Central Register

What's involved?





## The Central Register

Non-ID information disclosure about a donor	
Sex	Male
Month & Year of birth	Mar 1952
Place of birth	Surrey, UNITED KINGDOM
Hair colour	Medium Brown
Eye colour	Blue/Green
Height	5'7 (170 cm)
Blood group	A Positive
Genetic Abnormality	Type 1 Diabetes
Number of women who have conceived using donor's donations	6
Number of donor conceived persons born as a result of this donor's donations	8
Occupation	Brick layer
Clinics where the donor's donations were used in treatment	Prince Henry's Institute of Medical Research
Other Information on the Central Register	Red beard, general colouring: fair, Caucasian

## The Central Register

ID Information release about a donor or donor-conceived person	
Given name(s)	John Robert
Surname	SMITH
Donor Code	A1
Date of birth	01/03/1952
Contact telephone number	0400 000 000
Email address	jrsmith@gmail.com

## The Central Register

Non-ID Information Release – Donor Siblings or Offspring			
Total number of donor siblings / offspring		8	
Woman	Number of donor siblings / offspring born to that woman	Sex	Month and year of birth
1	1	MALE	12/1978
2	1	FEMALE	01/1980
3	1	FEMALE	04/1980
	1	MALE	03/1982
4	1 - Deceased	FEMALE	01/1981
5	1	FEMALE	04/1981
	1	FEMALE	04/1981
6	1	FEMALE	08/1981

# The Voluntary Register



# The Voluntary Register

## Who can apply?



Donor-Conceived Persons



Parents



Donors



Descendants of  
Donor-Conceived Persons



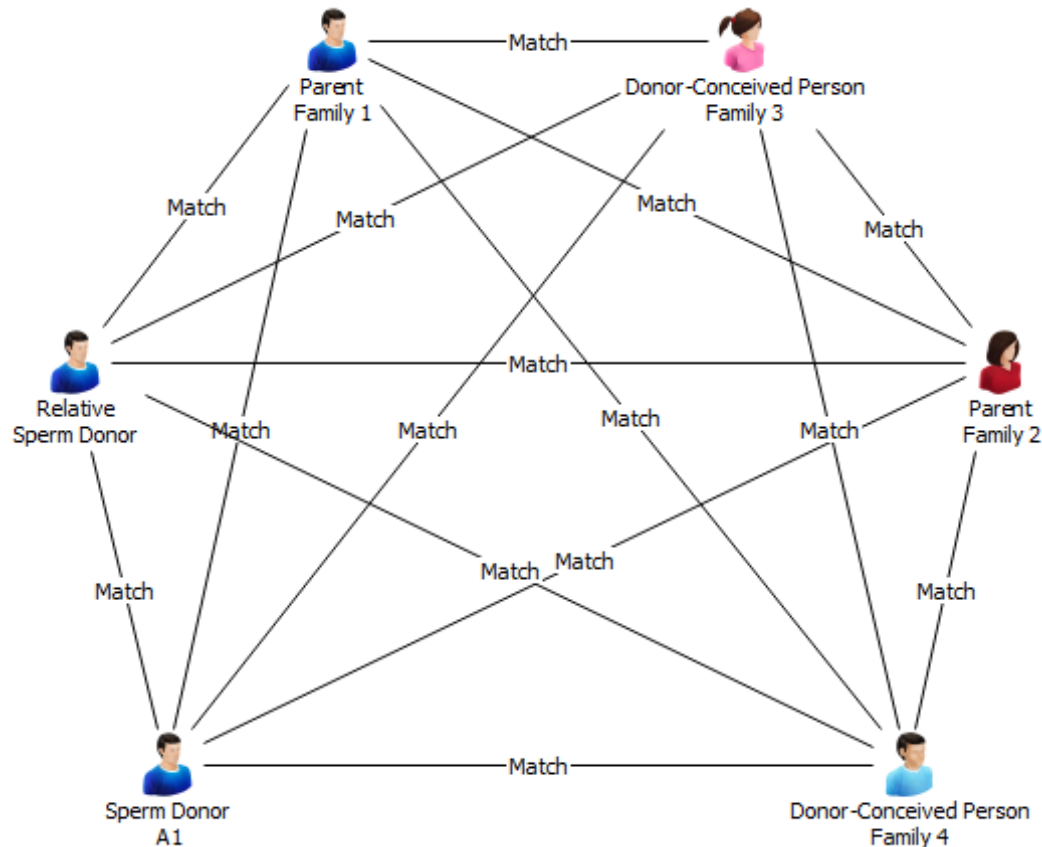
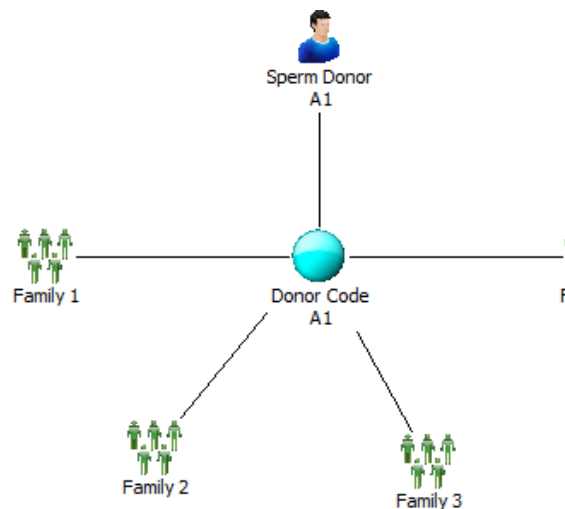
Relatives

## What information is recorded?

- Name
- Contact details
- Donor ID
- Any items the applicant wishes to register
  - Letters, photographs, videos, family trees, etc...
  - Interests and hobbies
  - Medical conditions
- The applicants wishes about
  - Who they want to connect with
  - What information they want to share

# The Voluntary Register

What's involved?



# Donor Linking

## Who can participate?



Donor-Conceived Persons



Parents



Donors



Descendants of  
Donor-Conceived Persons



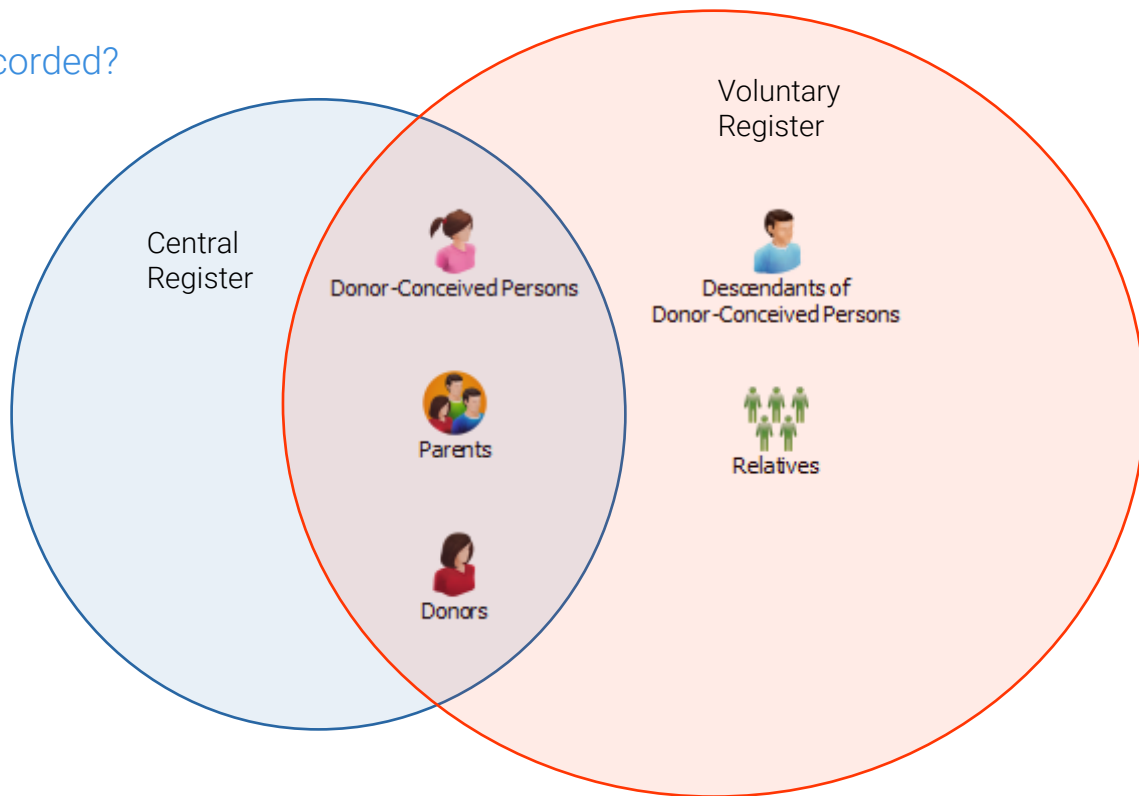
Relatives

## What is it?

- Exchange of information or correspondence
  - Facilitated email exchange
    - up to 5 items, first 6 months only
  - Non-identifying email address
- Arrange contact
  - Exchange emails, phone numbers
  - facilitated meeting with VARTA counsellor

# Difference between Central and Voluntary Registers

Who is recorded?

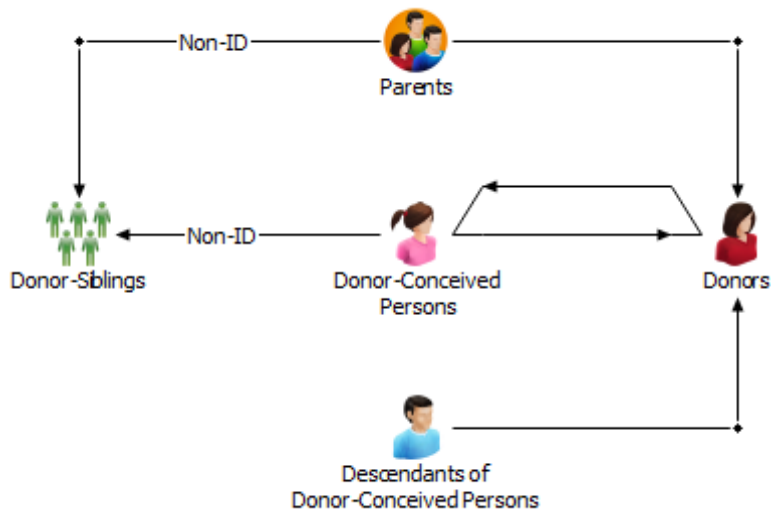




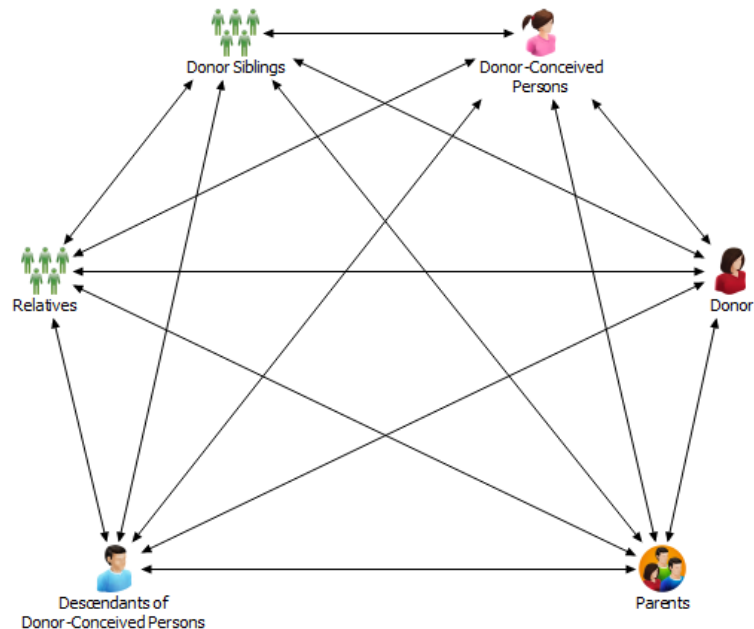
# Difference between Central and Voluntary Registers

What information is available?

## Central Register



## Voluntary Register



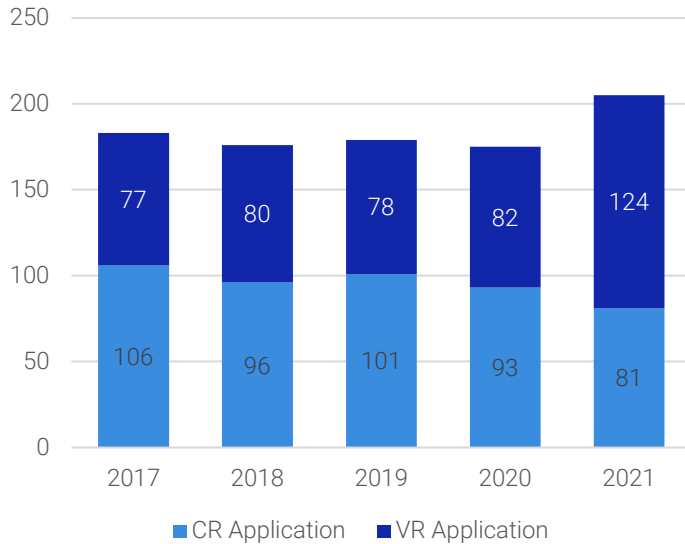
# Difference between Central and Voluntary Registers

## Other important differences

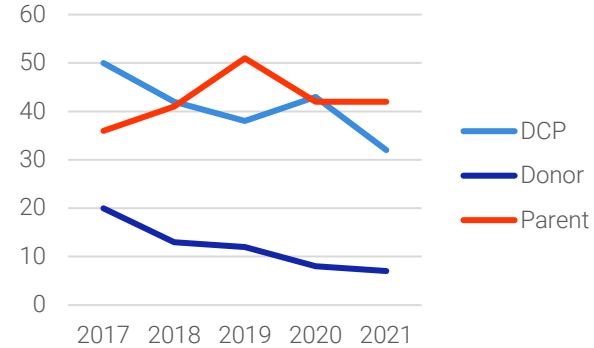
Option	Central Register	Voluntary Register
Recording on Register	Mandatory	Optional
What information is recorded	Prescribed by legislation	Name, contact details – all other information is voluntary
Family / genetic relationships	Must be satisfied before release (ie. medical records / DNA test results)	Donor code or other evidence
Update information	Contact details with consent Name and treatment details requires evidence	All information
Withdrawal from Register	Not allowed	Allowed
Cost	\$77.86 (Donor / DCP info) + \$77.86 (Donor Sibling non-ID info)	Free

# Application Trends

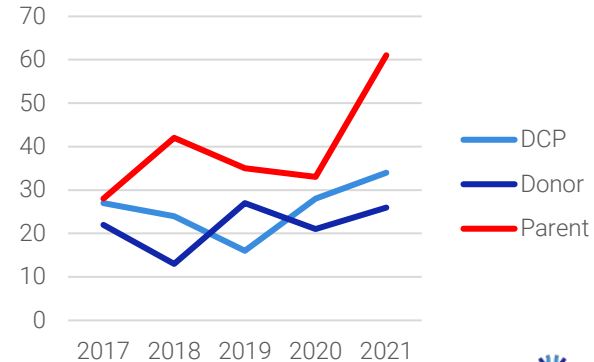
## Central & Voluntary Register Applications 2017-2021



## Central Register Applicants by Type



## Voluntary Register Applicants by Type



# Challenges & Opportunities

## Managing expectations

- Outreaches
- Setting boundaries

## DNA Testing

- Importance of telling

## Unregulated donor activity

- Health and legal risks
- No 'right to know'
- Not recorded on Central Register

## Notices of Separation

- Separated partner providing the gametes - now a donor

## The Voluntary Register

- Changing purpose
- Potential growth
- Best option for –
  - Donor-siblings
  - Parents to meet other parents
  - Treatment prior to official records



# Questions?



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