



VARTA

Victorian Assisted Reproductive
Treatment Authority

Strategic Plan 2022 - 2024

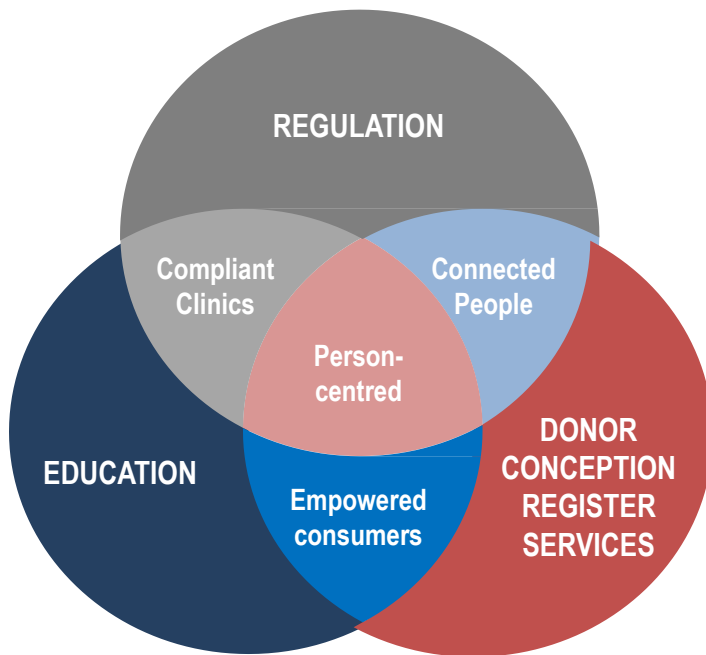


VARTA

Victorian Assisted Reproductive
Treatment Authority

OUR VISION

People are enabled to make optimal choices about their fertility, assisted reproductive treatment and the connections it creates.



OUR PURPOSE

We help people understand what they can do to improve their chance of having a baby.

We regulate ART providers to ensure they deliver safe care and prioritise the best interests of people having ART treatment, and their future children.

We support people involved in donor conception to get the information they need and achieve their connection preferences.

What we do

Regulation

- We regulate the provision of ART in Victoria
- We administer the registration of ART providers in Victoria
- We monitor and report on treatment outcomes
- We approve the import/export of donor gametes and embryos containing donor gametes, into and out of Victoria
- We monitor adverse incidents and advise the Minister for Health of any contraventions of the ART legislation
- We work alongside co-regulators and stakeholders to achieve a cohesive, collaborative approach to the regulation of ART

Education

- We translate research findings about fertility, infertility, ART and preconception health into information materials and education programs, campaigns and projects
- We educate the community and relevant professionals
- We educate ART clinics to ensure compliance with the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act (2008)*, information sharing for risk mitigation and the delivery of person-centred care

Donor Conception Register Services

- We manage the Central and Voluntary Registers and process applications from people who want to seek or store information on the registers
- We provide information, counselling and support for donor-conceived people (DCP), parents, donors and family members
- We make connections between donors, DCPs and parents who received donor treatment



VARTA

Victorian Assisted Reproductive
Treatment Authority

HOW WE WORK

We value integrity, transparency, respect and our ‘person-centred’ way of working. We are:

Independent

We operate as a statutory authority guided by the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008 (Vic)* and the Minister for Health’s Statement of Expectations.

Inclusive

We are committed to the *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 (Vic)*, and to the protection of the welfare of all people treated through and born from ART.

Evidence-informed

We gather and analyse current evidence and translate findings to inform all that we do.

Sustainable

We operate as an innovative, responsive and capable organisation.

Collaborative

We work in partnership with those working in ART, health, education, research and legal sectors, and we consult with people with lived experience.

WE WORK WITH

• People to enable them to make well-informed choices including those:

- ☐ of reproductive age – from young adult to late forties
- ☐ who want to have a baby soon, or sometime in the future
- ☐ who are considering ART treatment
- ☐ who have fertility concerns
- ☐ who provide ART treatment
- ☐ who are parents, donor-conceived people, donors and their families and surrogates

• Organisations that inform, support and influence:

- | | | |
|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ART providers, clinicians, counsellors and other clinic staff | <input type="checkbox"/> Fertility industry co-regulators | <input type="checkbox"/> Consumer, health, education and fertility peak bodies |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General practitioners, nurses and other primary health care providers | <input type="checkbox"/> Registry of Birth, Deaths and Marriages | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Media | <input type="checkbox"/> Primary health, preventive health, public health and health promotion organisations | |



VARTA

Victorian Assisted Reproductive
Treatment Authority

OUR STRATEGIC PRIORITIES 2022 - 2024

Regulation

- Undertake risk-based regulatory methodology to ensure ART service delivery in Victoria delivers safe, high quality and person centred care.
- Educate and share learning with health care providers and consumers on the benefits and safeguards of the ART Act to minimise risks, ensure compliance and diminish the potential for legislative breaches.
- Enhance administrative processes to ensure the efficient consideration of import/export applications.

Education

- Educate Victorians about fertility, infertility and ART with a focus on current research and emerging issues so they can make informed decisions and avoid potential harm.

Donor Conception Register Services

- Undertake donor linking services in a caring, supportive and professional manner.
- Ensure donor conceived people, donors and parents are well informed of their rights and obligations associated with information access, so they can make informed decisions.
- Enhance VARTA's systems, processes and practices to ensure the Registers can effectively service future generations of donor conceived people, donors and parents.

Organisational Capacity and Capability

- Continuously review and improve operations so that we can sustain the human and financial resources required to undertake functions, deliver services and achieve strategic outcomes
- Demonstrate VARTA's values in the delivery of our services and the care of our own staff
- Use language and methods that promote and foster inclusiveness.

Outcomes of Our Work

- This Strategic Plan will deliver the following outcomes:
 - ☐ Efficient risk-based regulatory systems and processes
 - ☐ Innovative health promotion and education
 - ☐ Well-informed consumers
 - ☐ Professional Donor Register Services
 - ☐ Competent and resourceful operations
 - ☐ Engaged employees



VARTA

Victorian Assisted Reproductive
Treatment Authority

OUR PRIORITIES IN ACTION

Regulation

Priority	Key Strategies	Indicators/Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake risk-based regulatory methodology to ensure ART service delivery in Victoria delivers safe, high quality and person centred care.• Educate and share learning with health care providers and consumers on the benefits and safeguards of the ART Act to minimise risks, ensure compliance and diminish the potential for legislative breaches.• Enhance administrative processes to ensure the efficient consideration of import/export applications.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maximise utilisation of current available regulatory tools whilst also building the case for a more extensive and graduated set of compliance and enforcement powers.• Amplify our safety and quality auditing program and share the learnings to improve ART risk mitigation.• Streamline processes for reviewing and considering import and export applications from individuals and clinics• Continue to engage with Department on necessary legislative reforms	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Effective mitigation and management of ART Risks• Maximised capacity of each available regulatory tools• Responses to potential and actual breaches of the Act are appropriate• Effective collaboration with co-regulators through regular engagement• More efficient processing of import and export applications

Education

Priority	Key Strategies	Indicators/Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Educate Victorians about fertility, infertility and ART with a focus on current research and emerging issues so they can make informed decisions and avoid potential harm.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increase use of social media and mainstream media to reach target audiences and amplify key messages.• Expand the use of online education methods such as webinars to reach more people in a cost effective way.• Utilise VARTA's Consumer Advisory group to ensure our education is informed by current experiences of ART.• Undertake, review and translate research to inform activities.• Increased focus on plain English to ensure people understand our information.• Use <i>Your Fertility</i> to educate Australians of reproductive age about factors that affect fertility to prevent infertility.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased levels of consumer input into design.• Increased events, website content, mainstream media and social media reach and engagement.• Available, current, relevant resources that are easy to understand.• Relevant and meaningful research results.



VARTA

Victorian Assisted Reproductive
Treatment Authority

OUR PRIORITIES IN ACTION

Donor Conception Register Services

Priority	Key Strategies	Indicators/Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Undertake donor linking services in a caring, supportive and professional manner.• Ensure donor conceived people, donors and parents are well informed of their rights and obligations associated with information access, so they can make informed decisions.• Enhance VARTA's systems, processes and practices to ensure the Registers can effectively service future generations of donor conceived people, donors and parents.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Review and improve communication with clients by clearly articulating, in plain English, their rights and obligations associated with information access.▪ Streamline procedures and implement enhancements to DCRS information technology systems▪ Contribute knowledge, research and education at forums and conferences and via VARTA's website	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Increased information will be made directly available on our website through written material, videos and diagrams• Implementation of new and improved technology functions• Systems and processes comply with legislative and privacy requirements• Positive client experiences• Effective collaboration with consumers, ART providers, and all stakeholders in donor conception.

Operational Capacity and Capability

Priority	Key Strategies	Indicators/Measures
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Continuously review and improve operations so that we can sustain the human and financial resources required to undertake functions, deliver services and achieve strategic outcomes• Demonstrate VARTA's values in the delivery of our services and the care of our own staff• Use language and methods that promote and foster diversity, equity and inclusion.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Create a positive organisational culture of trust, transparency and accountability.• Review and streamline operating processes• Improve and develop secure ICT systems to assist staff undertake their work securely and efficiently to benefit stakeholders.• Ensure staff are adequately supported and educated in VARTA's processes and procedures.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Positive survey results from staff and stakeholders• Successful partnerships and collaborations• Risks managed effectively• Efficient systems and processes• Secure ICT systems• Sustainable 3 year budget projection• Accurate and timely internal/external financial reporting