



The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

Minister for Health
Minister for Health Infrastructure
Minister for Medical Research

GPO Box 4057
Melbourne Victoria 3001
Telephone: +61 3 9096 8561
www.health.vic.gov.au

BAC-CO-37523

Julia Griffith
Chair
Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority
30/570 Bourke St
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear Ms Griffith

STATEMENT OF EXPECTATIONS FOR VICTORIAN ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TREATMENT AUTHORITY

I am pleased to provide you with my expectations for the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (VARTA), to guide business planning processes.

In my portfolio, I administer a range of Acts and regulations designed to promote wellbeing and to protect the health of the Victorian community. I am committed to improving the health and wellbeing of all Victorians, including those who use assisted reproductive treatment procedures to start or grow their family as well as people born or to be born as a result of treatment procedures.

As Minister for Health, I administer the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008*, the main purpose of which includes the regulation of the use of assisted reproductive treatment and artificial insemination procedures and access to information about such procedures carried out under the Act.

Based on consultation with the department about the government's priorities and emerging risks, my expectations for VARTA are as follows:

- Adopt a clear and concise risk-based approach to regulation to ensure priorities are set appropriately, activities are strategically focused and resources are maximised
- Enhance administrative processes to enable efficient consideration of import/export applications
- Facilitate provision of donor linking services to meet legislated requirements
- Ensure data integrity and privacy risks are reduced and mitigated
- Maintain collaborative relationships with stakeholders through effective consultation and engagement
- Continue to work with Department of Health to ensure adequate arrangements for corporate business services.

In addition, I expect all regulators in the health portfolio to commit to:

- Contributing to health, wellbeing, and safety outcomes for Aboriginal people and the advancement of Aboriginal self-determination.

- Climate change adaptation and enhancing health system resilience through the improvement of environmental sustainability.

I request that VARTA incorporate these expectations into relevant business plans, including milestones for when the Authority will meet these expectations, and report on progress. The business plans should also include appropriate milestones for reviewing the content of this letter and advising me when it needs to be updated or renewed.

At any time, I may request that you report on meeting my expectations or issue a new statement of expectations letter.

I further request that VARTA undertake a light touch review of the expectations in this letter as part of the Authority's annual reporting obligations and to advise me if there are any refinements recommended.

Thank you for continuously working towards best practice and improved regulatory operations.

Yours sincerely



The Hon Mary-Anne Thomas MP

01/07/23