



Regulator Plan

Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority

7 December 2017

This is the first version of the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority Regulator Plan.
It was approved by the Authority on 7 December 2017.

Comments and feedback are welcomed.

To receive this publication in an accessible format phone (03) 8601 5250, or email varta@varta.org.au.

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Definitions

Adverse incidents	<p>Incidents involving an actual or potential contravention of</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ART Act, its guiding principles or its regulations • the <i>Conditions for Registration</i> <p>or a notifiable incident reported to RTAC as part of accreditation requirements.</p> <p>Adverse incidents must be reported to the Authority under the <i>Conditions for Registration</i>.</p>
Advisory panel	<p>The Advisory Panel provides the Authority with current information and advice in relation to ART from scientific, technical, ethical and consumer perspectives.</p>
Assisted reproductive treatment (ART)	<p>This includes a medical treatment or procedure which procures or attempts to procure pregnancy in a woman, including in-vitro fertilisation (IVF) and gamete intra-fallopian transfer (GIFT), but excluding artificial insemination.</p>
<i>Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008 (Vic) (the ART Act)</i>	<p>This Act regulates the use of assisted reproductive treatment and artificial insemination procedures, Victorian surrogacy arrangements, and access to information about donor treatment procedures and resulting births.</p>
The Authority	<p>Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority, which is established by and given functions and powers under Part 10 of the ART Act.</p>
Central Register	<p>This register holds records in relation to donor treatment procedures and the donor, recipient parents and children born as a result of a procedure. Those individuals can make an application to the Central Register for identifying and/or non-identifying information about their donor or donor offspring. Established under Part 6 of the ART Act and held by the Authority.</p>
Conditions for Registration	<p>The <i>Conditions for Registration</i> are imposed, in the public interest, on the registration of ART providers by the Authority under Part 8 of the ART Act. Registered ART providers must adhere to these conditions while being registered in Victoria.</p>
Co-regulator	<p>Any national, other state and territory or Victorian regulator that has complementary objectives or functions, and/or the same regulated entities.</p>
Designated officer	<p>A designated officer must be appointed by each registered ART provider under Part 8 of the Act. He or she is the key point of contact with the Authority in relation to matters relating to the ART Act.</p>
Donor	<p>A donor is a person who gives consent under both past and current Victorian ART legislation to donate their sperm, eggs</p>

	or embryos, as well as those donors who donated prior to the implementation of legislation.
Donor treatment procedure	A donor treatment procedure is a treatment procedure involving sperm, eggs or embryos provided by a donor.
Guidelines for the import and export of donor sperm, donor eggs or embryos created using donor sperm and/or eggs	These guidelines were established by the Authority to set out what the Authority will consider in deciding whether to approve an application to import or export under Part 3 of the ART Act. They also give information about the process of making an application to import or export and are publically available on the Authority's website.
Registered ART providers	An ART provider which is registered under Part 8 of the ART Act.
Treatment procedure	A procedure which involves ART or artificial insemination.
Voluntary Register	Established under Part 7 of the ART Act and held by the Authority. This register holds information about individuals involved in Victorian donor treatment procedures, including donors, recipients and children born as a result. Those individuals may voluntarily lodge information about themselves, in order to match with others to whom they are genetically related.

Introduction

The Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (the Authority) is a statutory authority set up under the *Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act 2008* (the ART Act) and is funded by the Victorian Department of Health and Human Services.

The purpose of this Regulator Plan is to clarify the Authority's regulatory role and define its regulatory approach, in line with the principles of transparency and accessibility.

The formalised principles will guide the work of the Authority in undertaking its regulatory functions, and provide the public and Victorian assisted reproductive treatment providers with clear information on the objectives and decision-making principles that apply in carrying out these functions.

The structure of the Regulator Plan document includes:

- defining outcomes
- risk overview
- monitoring outcomes
- stakeholder engagement

This plan is effective from 7 December 2017. It will then be reviewed and updated:

- every two years - in line with the requirement for Victorian ministers to develop and re-issue a ministerial statement of expectations every two years
- otherwise where key legislative or policy changes are made that will impact on regulatory functions and the currency of the Regulator Plan.

Feedback regarding the plan can be sent to varta@varta.org.au

Table of principles

In order to achieve the Authority's outcomes, it undertakes its regulatory role and functions as informed by better regulatory practice approaches, including those adopted in Victoria, interstate and internationally. In particular, the Authority takes a systematic, risk-based regulatory approach to minimise the risk of harm by working to protect the health and wellbeing of people undergoing treatment procedures, and promote the welfare and interests of children born from such procedures as paramount. Endeavouring to support and optimise regulatory compliance by registered assisted reproductive treatment (ART) providers assists to prevent or minimise harm to those involved in treatment procedures, optimises the health and welfare of children born, and promotes the guiding principles of the ART Act.

The Authority applies the following regulatory practice principles in administering and complying with the ART Act, which defines the scope of the Authority's work and its functions. The principles have been informed by the principles set out in the Department of Health and Human Services' *Better Regulatory Practice Framework*.

The Authority also considers the guiding principles of the ART Act wherever appropriate in implementing these regulatory practice principles, and in implementing its functions under the ART Act.

Table 1: Regulatory practice principles

Principle	Commitment
Risk-based	<p>The Authority aims to be proactive and responsive in identifying, assessing and responding to risk by prioritising and targeting resources toward specific groups or behaviours that pose the greatest risk to health and wellbeing of the public.</p> <p>The Authority monitors registered ART providers' compliance with the ART Act through communication and collaboration. Where non-compliance occurs, the Authority works with registered ART providers so that they adequately identify and address the cause of non-compliance and minimise further risk.</p> <p>The Authority also focuses on risks associated with consumer decision-making by supporting research and communication activities that are targeted at better informing consumers and the broader community in relation to ART.</p>
Information-led	<p>The Authority analyses incoming information, data and evidence in assessing risks and measuring compliance. This allows the Authority to be accurate in its assessments, compliance measures, and regulatory actions.</p> <p>The Authority also makes decisions, both regulatory and administrative, using comprehensive, accurate and current information and evidence.</p> <p>The Authority maintains independence and impartiality in carrying out its activities and functions and collects intelligence and data independently when appropriate.</p>
Outcomes-focused	<p>Processes and decision-making are driven by outcomes. Progress against outcomes is measured to ensure continuous improvement.</p> <p>The Authority monitors and evaluates its work to improve performance, value and output. It prioritises the wellbeing of those who access ART and children born as a result of ART.</p>
Efficient	<p>Resources are allocated in a way that aims to most efficiently achieve outcomes. This includes minimising unnecessary administrative burden and any adverse impacts of regulatory actions on registered ART providers to a level that is justifiable to achieve regulatory outcomes and meet community expectations.</p>

Transparent	<p>Wherever possible and in the public interest, the Authority is open in its decision-making and processes, recording decisions appropriately, including the justification for decisions. It aims to assist registered ART providers and, where applicable, the public, to understand the decision-making processes, areas of focus and performance. As required by the ART Act, it follows standard reporting requirements, enabling the Minister for Health and the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) to monitor the performance of its activities.</p> <p>Regulation is developed and enforced transparently to promote the sharing of information and learnings. Where conditions are imposed on the registration of ART providers in the public interest under the ART Act, these are published on the Authority’s website at www.varta.org.au</p> <p>The Authority publishes information on its activities in a way that is easily understandable, clearly shows performance and ensures it can be held to account. In addition to making information available, the Authority recognises the importance of actively engaging with stakeholders and informing them of decisions and regulatory activities.</p>
Collaborative	<p>The Authority works with the DHHS and other agencies to maximise effectiveness and minimise regulatory burden, particularly where different regulatory regimes intersect with the Authority’s activities. It works cooperatively and collaboratively with internal and external stakeholders, including interstate counterparts and those representing various client groups in the community. In doing so, its purpose is to achieve the best outcomes for those involved in ART.</p> <p>The Authority actively looks for opportunities to partner, collaborate and share information with others in order to improve effectiveness and reduce duplication. The Authority recognises that it exists within a framework of other relevant regulatory bodies and works with those other bodies where appropriate.</p>
Consistent	<p>The Authority works to provide a consistent experience for key stakeholders and the community. Regulatory responses should be predictable and where possible standardised, following clear processes and delivering consistent results. This ensures that individuals/organisations are treated fairly and the Authority is objective in its decision-making. The Authority aims to ensure that similar circumstances and incidents lead to comparable outcomes. The Authority believes that this is crucial in acting in the public interest.</p>

Regulator's context

Regulatory framework

The ART Act is the primary legislation which governs ART in Victoria. The Authority is established by this Act, as are the parameters of its regulatory role and its functions. The Authority's work is guided by the principles in the ART Act, the latest scientific and medical evidence and consultation. It is free from commercial interests.

The following guiding principles, as set out in section 5 of the ART Act, inform the Authority's work:

- the welfare and interests of persons born or to be born as a result of treatment procedures are paramount
- at no time should the use of treatment procedures be for the purpose of exploiting, in trade or otherwise:
 - the reproductive capabilities of men or women
 - children born as a result of treatment procedures.
- children born as a result of the use of donated gametes have a right to information about their genetic parents
- the health and wellbeing of persons undergoing treatment procedures must be protected at all times
- persons seeking to undergo treatment procedures must not be discriminated against on the basis of their sexual orientation, marital status, race or religion.

Groups the Authority works with to undertake its regulatory functions

The Authority carries out its regulatory functions with the cooperation and assistance of the following key groups:

- Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee (RTAC) – RTAC is a subcommittee of the board of the Fertility Society of Australia and is charged with the responsibility of setting standards for the performance of ART through an audited Code of Practice and the granting of licences to practice ART within Australia
- Health Complaints Commissioner (HCC) – HCC resolves complaints about healthcare and the handling of health information in Victoria. The Authority and the HCC liaise in relation to systemic issues evident in the practice of ART providers
- Australian Health Practitioner Regulation Agency (AHPRA) – AHPRA is responsible for regulating registered health practitioners. The Authority and AHPRA communicate regarding issues that impact on both entities, such as concerns about the professional conduct of registered health practitioners who practice at a registered ART provider or advertising practices
- Australian Competition and Consumer Commission (ACCC) – the ACCC enforces the *Competition and Consumer Act 2010* (Cth). The Authority communicates with the ACCC in relation to any concerns about misleading advertising by registered ART providers
- Patient Review Panel (PRP) – the PRP determines applications relating to surrogacy arrangements, presumptions against treatment, extensions of storage and other matters related to ART. The PRP and the Authority communicate about issues where approval functions may intersect, such as import or export approval decisions that involve surrogacy arrangements
- Private Hospitals Unit within the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) that approves the accreditation of private hospital facilities or day procedure centres
- National Health and Medical Research Council (NHMRC) - the NHMRC funds health and medical research and provides advice and guidelines in relation to health standards. The Authority and the NHMRC liaise in relation to the *Prohibition of Human Cloning for Reproduction Act 2002* (Cth), particularly on the issue of commercial trading in gametes and embryos.

Regulatory activities

The Authority has the following regulatory compliance activities under the ART Act:

- registering ART providers, including the imposition of Conditions for Registration
- monitoring programs and activities carried out under the ART Act
- reporting actual or potential breaches of the ART Act, breaches of the Conditions for Registration, and significant developments in research or treatment of infertility to the Minister
- approving applications for the import or export of donor gametes and embryos formed from donor gametes.

In addition to the above regulatory compliance activities, the Authority also has responsibility for the following activities which support the ART Act's outcomes:

- managing the central and voluntary Registers
- providing counselling and support services for people born as a result of donor treatment procedures, their parents and donors, including as part of the management of the donor registers
- public education in relation to treatment procedures and the best interests of children born as a result of treatment procedures
- community consultation about matters related to the ART Act
- monitoring programs and activities carried out in relation to the causes and prevention of infertility and programs and procedures used outside of Victoria in the practice of ART
- promoting research into the causes and prevention of infertility.

Defining outcomes

The objectives outlined in this section include both the Authority's regulatory and complementary activities, which are carried out cohesively to ensure that the outcomes are achieved in a comprehensive way. The Authority's contribution is limited to the scope of its powers and functions under the ART Act, and acknowledges that other factors and bodies also contribute to these outcomes.

Regulatory scheme	Regulation of ART
Outcome the Authority contributes to	Protecting the health, safety and wellbeing of ART patients, donors and surrogates by:
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> mandating, in the <i>Conditions for Registration</i>, that the Authority is notified of any adverse incidents (included a potential or actual breach of the ART Act or the <i>Conditions for Registration</i>), and any new treatment procedures that the ART provider is proposing to use collecting information about current issues in the ART sector, including issues related to patient-centred care, to inform the Authority's strategic planning providing information in relation to fertility, ART, the choice to be a donor, and surrogacy arrangements.

Regulatory scheme	Regulation of ART
Outcome the Authority contributes to	Supporting the right of donor-conceived people to access information about their genetic parents, and protecting their welfare and interests by:
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> managing the Central and Voluntary Registers, making amendments and corrections to make the Registers more accurate and complete processing applications for the import and export of donor gametes and embryos consistently, requiring that identifying information about donors relevant to the applications is available to be placed on the Central Register providing appropriate counselling and information to donor-conceived people on their rights under the ART Act providing information to the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages in relation to donor-conceived births. This allows an addendum to be added to a donor-conceived person's birth certificate stating that they are donor-conceived giving support and information to parents of donor-conceived people to tell their children about their conception.

Regulatory scheme	Regulation of ART
Outcome the Authority contributes to	Discouraging the exploitation of the reproductive capabilities of intending parents, donors and surrogates by:
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring individual gamete donations in compliance with the 10 family limit in conjunction with registered ART providers and through the management of the Central Register • requiring, when processing applications for import and export, that a declaration, stating that the donation and surrogacy arrangement (if relevant) are both altruistic is provided with the application • mandating, in the <i>Conditions for Registration</i>, that ART providers notify the Authority if they are proposing to utilise a new procedure or treatment • encouraging intending parents to consider local donors and surrogates, rather than those living overseas, through online, print and verbal information • providing information about how to advertise for egg donors in accordance with Victorian law.

Regulatory scheme	Regulation of ART
Outcome the Authority contributes to	Optimising outcomes for ART patients and preventing the unnecessary use of ART by Victorians through:
Objectives	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • notifying the DHHS and Minister of any developments that the Authority considers of importance or concern in research relating to ART • actively monitoring nationally and internationally emerging trends in reproductive medicine and liaising with the ART industry in relation to this • Using contemporary evidence-based information to regularly update information resources, web-based tools and presentation materials and provide information about ART outcomes in a neutral way.

Risk overview

Identified risks

The key risks that the Authority has identified are as follows (in no particular order):

1. As a result of commercial pressures and/or industry expansion, registered ART providers face increased challenges in relation to systems that support patient-centred care and legislative compliance, leading to the risk of harm to patients and/or children born.
2. As a result of perceived difficulties finding a sperm or egg donor in Victoria, some individuals seek to use gametes imported from overseas, leading to the risk that the reproductive capabilities of donors may be exploited and that individuals born in Victoria may not be able to access information about their genetic parents easily.
3. As a result of ART success rates being reported by registered ART providers in a way which is unclear, people seeking treatment may be misled as to the individual likelihood of having a child through ART, leading to the risk of patient harm and/or distress.

Assessing and treating risks

The Authority focuses greater effort and resources on risks with an extreme or high rating. The risk is assessed against the risk matrix (shown below) and given a risk rating.

		Increasing likelihood				
Increasing consequence	Overall risk rating	Rare	Unlikely	Possible	Likely	Almost certain
	Extreme	Medium	High	Extreme	Extreme	Extreme
	Major	Medium	Medium	High	High	Extreme
	Moderate	Low	Medium	Medium	High	High
	Minor	Low	Low	Medium	Medium	Medium
	Insignificant	Low	Low	Low	Medium	Medium

Risk #1	Likelihood: likely	Consequence: major	Rating: high
As a result of commercial pressures and/or industry expansion, registered ART providers face increased challenges in relation to systems that support patient-centred care and legislative compliance, leading to the risk of harm to patients and/or children born.			
<p>Extent of the risk: HIGH</p> <p>This risk has been assessed as high (possible likelihood and major consequence).</p> <p>The reasoning for this assessment is as follows:</p> <p>Likelihood- likely:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> increase in new industry entrants and/or lower-price providers creates commercial challenges <p>Consequence- major:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the consequence may be harm to patients and/or children born potential legislative non-compliance and adverse impact on industry reputation and public confidence. 			
<p>Ongoing controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> investigate reported adverse incidents and their underlying causes where appropriate 			

- meet with Designated Officers annually to discuss any challenges in relation to legislative compliance
- provide guidance to ART providers and maintenance of key relationships with ART provider staff.
- utilise Advisory Panel to bring issues to the attention of the Authority
- ensure ART providers submit the declarations required as part of the *Conditions for Registration*.

Planned changes in controls for 2017-18

- review and continuously improve procedures relating to the investigation of adverse incidents
- review of the *Conditions for Registration* annually, including the introduction of new regulatory measures imposed in the public interest
- communicate with ART providers about how compliance systems can support quality patient-centred care
- increased communication and collaboration with RTAC to enhance audits in areas of reported adverse incidents, including legislative non-compliance.

Risk #2	Likelihood: possible	Consequence: major	Rating: high
<p>As a result of perceived difficulties finding a sperm or egg donor in Victoria, some individuals seek to use gametes imported from overseas, leading to the risk that the reproductive capabilities of donors may be exploited and that individuals born in Victoria may not be able to access information about their genetic parents easily.</p>			
<p>Extent of the risk: HIGH</p> <p>This risk has been assessed as high (possible likelihood and major consequence).</p> <p>The reasoning for this assessment is as follows:</p> <p>Likelihood- possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • increased demand for donated gametes. <p>Consequence- major:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the consequence may be future harm or distress to patients or children born as a result of donor-conceived individuals treatment. 			
<p>Ongoing controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consider the guiding principles of the ART Act when considering whether to approve an application for the import or export of donated gametes or embryos produced using donated gametes • require identifying details of donors to be available for the Central Register as a condition for the approval of donor gametes or embryos containing donor gametes and monitor compliance with this requirement through the management of the Central Register 			

- provide information about the benefits of using a local donor on the Authority's website, via printed resources and through general enquiries
- encourage ART clinics to recruit a high proportion of local donors.

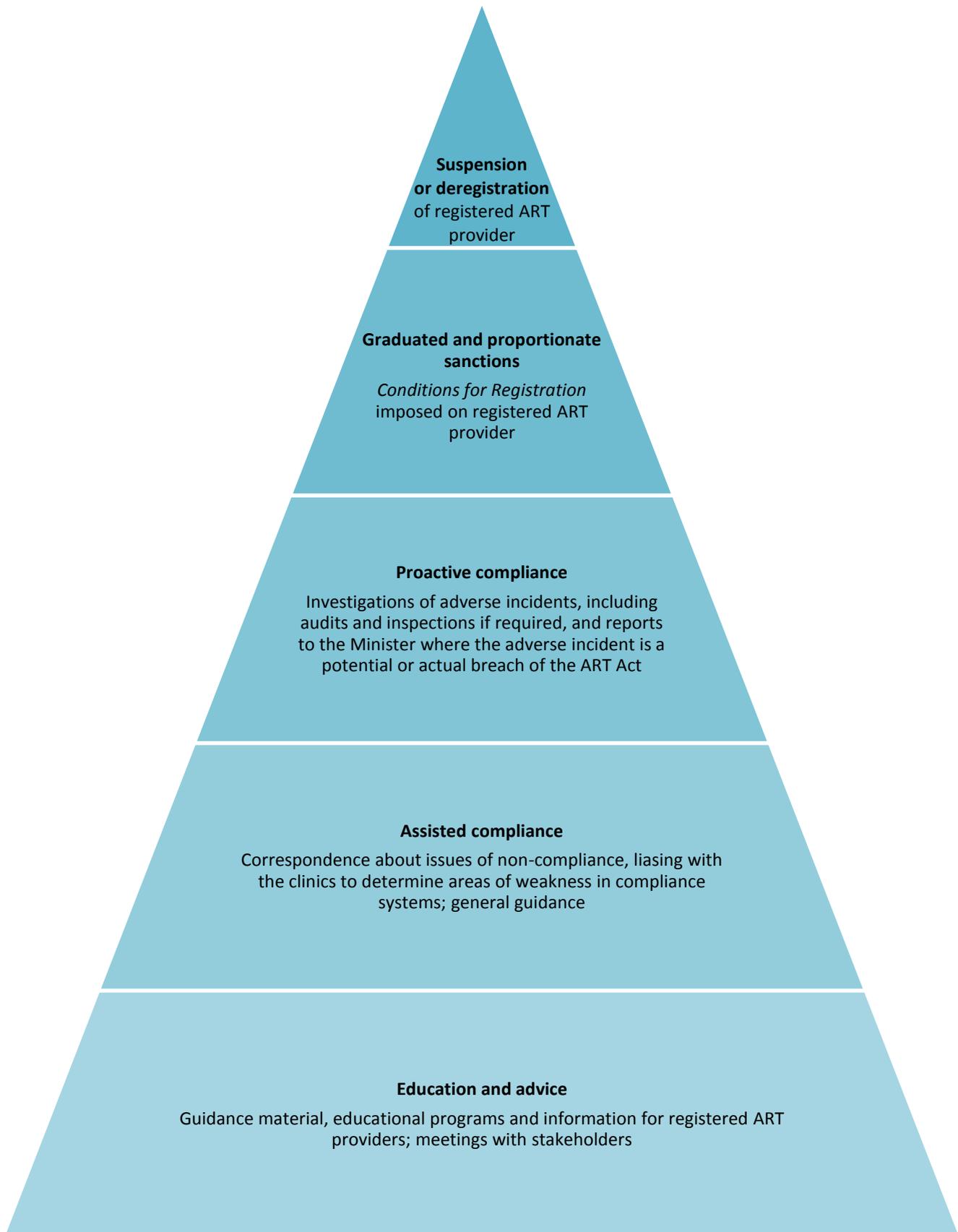
Planned changes in controls for 2017-18

- review the Authority's *Guidelines for the import and export of donor sperm, eggs and embryos produced using donor sperm and/or eggs* in light of the increasing use of overseas gametes
- review public education information and initiatives about donating, and the risks associated with informal donation arrangements in Victoria and anonymous donation arrangements overseas
- consider new measures and ways to encourage the clinics to recruit locally.

Risk #3	Likelihood: possible	Consequence: moderate	Rating: medium
<p>As a result of ART success rates being reported by registered ART providers in a way which is unclear, people seeking treatment may be misled as to the individual likelihood of having a child through ART, leading to the risk of patient harm and/or distress.</p>			
<p>Extent of the risk: MEDIUM</p> <p>This risk has been assessed as medium (possible likelihood and moderate consequence).</p> <p>The reasoning for this assessment is as follows:</p> <p>Likelihood- possible:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • recent media attention to published IVF success rates. <p>Consequence- moderate:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the consequence may be distress to patients and, indirectly, harm arising from inappropriate or unnecessary choice of ART treatment. 			
<p>Ongoing controls</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • requiring, in the <i>Conditions for Registration</i>, that ART providers make a declaration that they are compliant with the advertising provisions of the <i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009</i>. • promote information published by the Authority about success rates and questions patients can ask their doctors • monitor the information published by ART providers in relation to their success rates. 			
<p>Planned changes in controls for 2017-18</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop and promote web-based information published by the Authority on cumulative IVF success rates • consider referrals to AHPRA where the Authority believes that an ART provider's public information may breach the advertising provisions of the <i>Health Practitioner Regulation National Law (Victoria) Act 2009</i>. 			

Regulatory tools

The full suite of tools available to the Authority in its regulatory role can be illustrated as:



Regulatory Instruments

Conditions for Registration

The Authority has imposed *Conditions for Registration* on all registered ART providers, considering the imposition of these conditions to be necessary and in the public interest. These conditions are consistent with those imposed by RTAC on ART providers' accreditations. The *Conditions of Registration* are designed to:

- encourage and monitor sophisticated levels of compliance within the ART providers' systems and processes
- allow the Authority to monitor an ART providers' accreditation and compliance with the RTAC Code of Practice, as well as any significant developments in ART=
- require the provision of information from ART providers to enable the Authority to report to the Minister and undertake its statutory functions.

The Authority believes that the *Conditions for Registration* are in the public interest, as they reinforce the guiding principles of the ART Act and allow the Authority to monitor the ART sector's prioritisation of =the interests of patients, donors and the children born as a result of ART treatment.

If the Authority believes that an ART provider has contravened the *Conditions for Registration*, or if there are other reasonable grounds, the Authority may suspend the ART provider's registration.

Guidelines for the import and export of donor sperm, donor eggs and embryos produced using donor sperm and/or eggs

The Authority has developed *Guidelines for the import and export of donor sperm, donor eggs and embryos produced using donor sperm and/or eggs* (the Guidelines) in order to set out the considerations which the Authority believes to be relevant in making a decision in relation to an application for import or export.

The guidelines are =publicly available, enabling the Authority to explain the requirements that must be met by an application to import or export, and any additional considerations that the Authority believes to be relevant, given the guiding principles of the ART Act.

This document therefore provides the public and registered ART providers with information about the Authority's approval function in relation to imports and exports and insight into the way in which the Authority exercises that regulatory function. The Authority believes that this transparency is crucial, especially given that individuals who make applications to import or export may not be aware of the nature and extent of the Authority's power, or what types of considerations will be relevant.

Monitoring outcomes

In this section, a small number of indicators are outlined that can be used to guide the Authority's activities and evaluate their effectiveness. To the extent possible, these indicators demonstrate the contributions to the outcomes that the Authority is trying to achieve, rather than simply the activities that are being undertaken.

Our contribution story

The Authority contributes to the broader world of ART in a number of ways, outside the purview of its regulatory role.

The Authority contributes by engaging with stakeholders, such as the registered ART clinics and advisory groups, to educate them in relation to changes in the ART landscape, such as legislative amendments, risks to compliance or broader issues in ART.

The Authority also provides independent, evidence-based information for consumers on a number of issues, including how to interpret IVF success rates, the possible health effects of IVF, and what consumers should think about before using a donor or surrogate.

The Authority supports the donor-conceived community and donors, as well as working towards increasing openness in relation to donor conception. Initiatives such as work on the History of Donor Conception Records Project, running support groups and publishing resources to help parents tell a child that they are donor-conceived are some of the ways the Authority pursues this work.

The Authority contributes overall to the promotion of the welfare of all parties involved in donor conception, including donor-conceived people, parents and donors. The Authority recognises the importance of transparency and openness in relation to donor conception and issues surrounding ART more generally.

Our direct indicators

The Authority's success in meeting its objectives and outcomes is measured through a number of indicators as outlined below.

Indicator	Target 2016-17	2016-17 actual	Target 2017-18	2017-18 actual
Annual review of the <i>Conditions for Registration</i>	Annual review and publication	Annual review and publication	Annual review and publication	TBA
Processing applications for import and export of donated gametes and embryos produced using donated gametes within six weeks of receiving all required information	90%	94%	95%	TBA
Applications for registration as an ART provider processed within two weeks of receiving all required information	100%	Not applicable- no applications received	100%	TBA
Audit of all registered ART providers' websites conducted annually in relation to advertising and success rates by the end of each financial year	100%	100%	100%	TBA

The Authority will consider the possibility of a stakeholder survey or targeted engagement to understand the patient's point of view in relation to their treatment and the ART providers' provision of patient-centred care.

Stakeholder engagement

Communication activities

The Authority communicates with a number of stakeholders through formal and informal discussions, consultation and partnerships. The Authority uses a number of mechanisms to successfully communicate with stakeholders, including the Authority's website, newsletter, printed resources, social media and presentations.

The following table outlines the key stakeholders and describes how they are to be engaged on an ongoing basis.

In addition to communicating with the stakeholders listed below, the Authority also reports to the Minister for Health. The Authority prepares an annual report to the Minister, provides information relating to potential or actual breaches of the Act or Regulators, and provides ad-hoc advice to the Minister on significant ART-related matters. The Authority meets with the Minister or her office at least annually.

The Authority also liaises with the Department of Health and Human Services, as well as the Deputy Secretary and Secretary of the Department to discuss regulatory and policy matters.

Stakeholder	Authority's function/strategic activity	Actions
Registered ART providers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • monitoring programs and activities under this Act (s 100(d) (i)) • registration (s 100 (a)) • reporting to Minister (s 114). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • liaise and meet with designated officers and other key personnel at least annually, encourage them to bring any issues associated with the Act to the Authority's attention • conduct roundtable discussions regarding issues related to ART with designated officers and other key personnel when required • communicate in writing with designated officers when required regarding issues of compliance, registration and data provision • liaise with key personnel within registered ART providers annually for the development of public education resources, and promote the Authority's resources in relation to the receipt of accreditation reports and certificates • liaise with key personnel to ensure registration details for registered ART providers remain current.
Co-regulators (RTAC, AHPRA, HCC, BDM, PRP)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • communication regarding issues that impact on both entities • monitoring programs and activities under this Act (s 100(d)(i)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • liaise with co-regulators in relation to compliance issues concerning to the administration of programs under the ART Act, accreditation and registration, conduct of medical practitioners and systemic issues related to the operational of ART providers.

Stakeholder	Authority's function/strategic activity	Actions
Advisory groups (Donor Conception Registers Services Advisory Group and the Advisory Panel)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> monitoring programs and activities under this Act (s 100 (d) (i) (ii) (iii)) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> meet quarterly for advice and feedback on service delivery meet annually for monitoring and environmental scanning purposes.

Administration and Review

The stakeholder management plan is reviewed annually.