

# Briefing

## ECART's Annual Report 2022/2023 for tabling

<b>Date due to MO:</b>	9 September 2024	<b>Action required by:</b>	N/A
<b>Security level:</b>	IN CONFIDENCE	<b>Health Report number:</b>	H2024046614
<b>To:</b>	Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health		
<b>Consulted:</b>	Health New Zealand: <input type="checkbox"/>		

### Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
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<b>Ruihua Gu</b>	Group Manager, Quality Assurance and Safety, Regulation and Monitoring   Te Pou Whakamaru	s 9(2)(a)

### Minister's office to complete:

- |   |                                    |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline   | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change         | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen      | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |  |

Comment:

# ECART's Annual Report 2022/2023 for tabling

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**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE                      **Date:** 9 September 2024

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**To:** Hon Casey Costello, Associate Minister of Health

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## Purpose of report

1. The purpose of this briefing is to request that you table in the House of Representatives the annual report for the Ethics Committee on Assisted Reproductive Technology (ECART) for the year 2022/2023.
2. The report is appended to this briefing (Appendix 1).
3. Following tabling, the report will be published on ECART's website.

## Summary

4. The Ministry of Health – Manatū Hauora (the Ministry) prepares and publishes annual reports for ECART in line with the requirements set out in ECART's Terms of Reference. The Terms of Reference require the reports to be tabled in Parliament. Following tabling, we intend to publish ECART's reports electronically on the ECART website and as required, submit them to the National Library.
5. This is a standard annual report for ECART. The report provides information on the membership during the year, the number and type of applications for assisted reproductive procedures, extended storage of reproductive tissue and human reproductive research considered, ECART's decisions, and details of any complaints received. The report also notes the number of live births from approved applications that use assisted reproductive procedures.
6. The reports may be of interest to members of the public accessing these services, as well as fertility treatment providers and the fertility research community and, it is in the public interest to make the reports readily accessible. Any enquiries will be responded to by the Ministry as a matter of course.

## Recommendations

We recommend you:

- |   |               |
|---|---------------|
| a) <b>Agree</b> to table ECART's annual report for 2022-2023 in the House.        | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| b) <b>Note</b> that once tabled, the report will be published on ECART's website. | <b>Noted</b>  |



Simon Medcalf  
**Deputy-Director General**  
**Regulation and Monitoring | Te Pou Whakamaru**  
Date: 9 September 2024

Hon Casey Costello  
**Associate Minister of Health**  
Date:

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

# ECART's Annual Report 2022/2023 for tabling

## Background

### Role of ECART

1. ECART is a Ministerial committee established under section 27 of the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology (HART) Act 2004. ECART reviews, determines, and monitors applications for assisted reproductive procedures, human reproductive research, and extended storage of eggs, sperm and embryos after the first 10 years of storage. ECART is supported by the Ethics secretariat, which is part of the Regulation and Monitoring directorate at the Ministry.

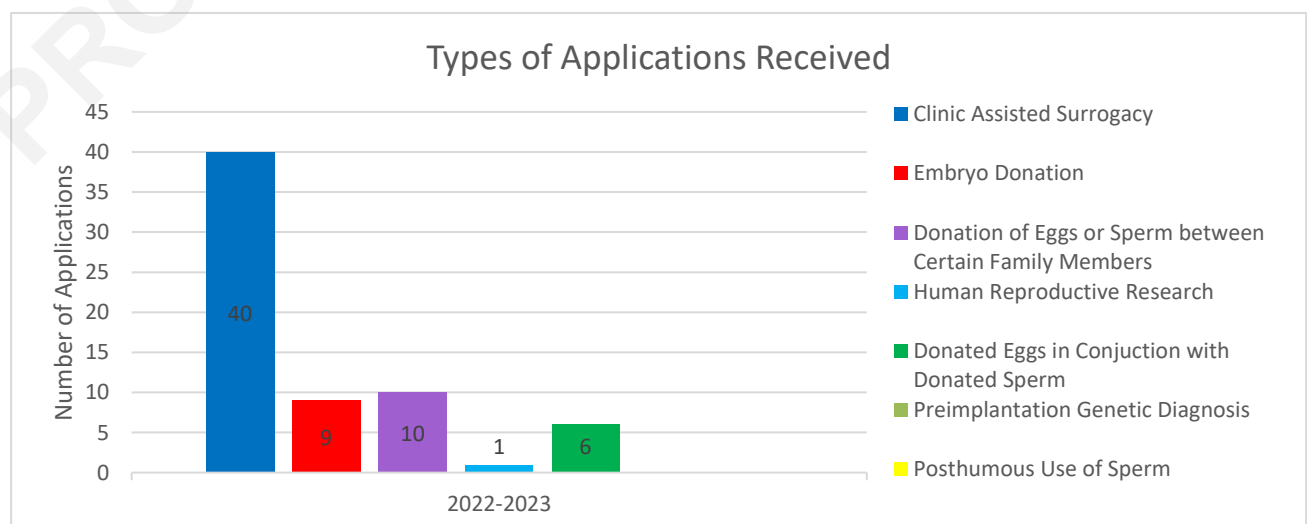
### ECART annual reports

2. ECART's annual report 2022/23 covers the financial year 1 July 2022 to 30 June 2023 and includes:
  - information on the membership of the committee
  - a summary of the applications reviewed during the year
  - the number and type of applications for assisted reproductive procedures and human reproductive research, ECART's decisions, and the reason for deferring or declining any applications
  - details of any complaints received (and how they were resolved)
  - any areas of review that caused difficulty in making decisions.

### Summary of Applications Considered

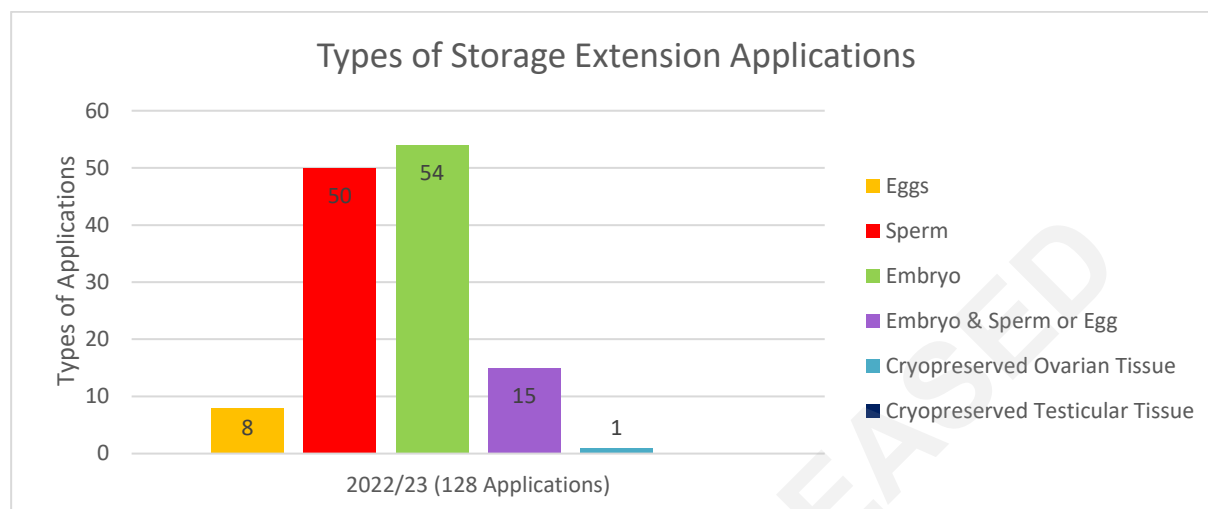
3. The number of applications for assisted reproductive procedures and human reproductive research received by ECART between 2022/2023 is shown in Figure 1 below.

**Figure 1: The number and type of applications reviewed by ECART in 2022/2023**



4. The number of applications for storage extensions received by ECART between 2022/2023 is shown in Figure 2 below.

**Figure 2: The number and type of storage extension applications received by ECART in 2022/2023**



### Notable items in the report

5. The report notes one declined application for human reproductive research and one declined application for the extended storage of gametes. We have summarised these items below. There is likely to be minimal media interest in these items, however, we can provide talking points if requested.

**Table 1: The total number of applications and declined applications reviewed by ECART in 2022/2023**

Total assisted reproductive procedure & human reproductive research applications reviewed	66
Declined assisted reproductive procedure & human reproductive research applications	1
Total Extended Storage applications reviewed	128
Declined Extended Storage applications	1

6. ECART's declined one application for human reproductive research, which was the only reproductive research application considered by ECART in 2022/2023. ECART declined this application as it did not consider that the research involved the use of embryos and as such agreed that it should instead be reviewed by a Health and Disability Ethics Committee (HDEC).
7. ECART declined one application for extended storage of gametes or embryos between 2022/2023. The declined application was for an extension to the storage of sperm. The application was received after the material's storage expiry date and was declined on the basis that the Human Assisted Reproductive Technology (HART) Act does not allow ECART to consider applications which are received after their storage expiry date (section 10, HART Act 2004).
8. No complaints were received in 2022/2023.

9. This is a standard annual report for ECART, and the number of applications received and declined is consistent with previous years.

## **Equity**

10. Māori members make up about half of the current committee. The application of tikanga and te ao Māori in ECART's decision making contributes to protecting the interests of Māori who use fertility treatment, their whānau and for Māori children born from fertility treatment.
11. From August 2024 we will use the Ethics Review Manager (ERM) online application system to manage and file ECART's applications. ERM will capture a wider range of data, including ethnicity data about groups who are currently accessing fertility treatment services. This information could be included in future annual reports and be shared with researchers and policy makers.

## **Next steps**

12. Following tabling, the annual report will be published on the ECART website and as required, submitted to the National library.

**ENDS.**

## Minister's Notes

PROACTIVELY RELEASED