

Patient Information

Understanding the family limit

Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2024

Why is there a family limit?

From 1 March 2026, Queensland has a family limit for the use of donated eggs, sperm, and embryos. The family limit is one of several safeguards designed to protect donor-conceived people. It aims to limit the number of donor-related Australian families created from the same donor while continuing to support people to build their families within the limit.

How is the family limit applied?

Your Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) provider is responsible for applying the family limit, supported by Queensland Health guidance, when providing treatment. ART providers keep records about donor allocations and donor-related families. Because they hold this information, they are responsible for determining how the family limit applies in individual circumstances.

Every family's circumstances are unique; this is true for all families who have used the same donor. This means what happens across families allocated to a donor can impact the family count for everyone.

If your ART provider has questions about how the limit applies in a particular situation, Queensland Health works directly with them to discuss individual cases.

Has Queensland Health clarified its guidance?

As a proactive regulator, Queensland Health continually reviews how the *Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004* (the Act) is implemented to ensure it operates as intended. Following feedback from ART providers, patients, and other stakeholders, Queensland Health reviewed how the family limit is applied.

As a result of this review, the family limit will be applied differently going forward and retrospectively from 1 March 2026. The revised approach continues to protect donor-conceived people while better reflecting social family structures. Queensland Health has issued ART providers with revised guidance to assist them with applying the family limit.

Queensland Health will continue to work collaboratively with ART providers and other stakeholders, monitor the operation of the Act, and provide further guidance where required. Queensland Health's regulation of ART will continue to prioritise the safety, rights and welfare of patients, families, and persons born from ART.

Where can I get more information?

If you have questions about how the family limit applies to you, please speak with your ART provider in the first instance. They are responsible for applying the family limit and have the information needed to explain how it applies to your circumstances.

If you have further questions, you can contact Queensland Health at ART@health.qld.gov.au

You can also find the latest information on the Queensland Health Website:

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/licences/art>.