

Notes on interpretation of ANZARD data

Freezing, thawing and storage of embryos

The NPSU collects information about the number of embryos in Australia and New Zealand removed from/added to storage in fertility centres for each year. While these data are accurate for counts in a single year, their accuracy over time is less dependable and thus the reliability of the numbers needs to be treated with caution. Table R9 in the *Assisted Reproductive Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2002* and *Assisted Reproduction Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2003* reports details of freezing, thawing and storage of embryos in Australia and New Zealand. Embryo storage is a dynamic system with NPSU being notified as of a specified date of the number of embryos in storage by IVF and GIFT centres.

Congenital anomalies

Data on congenital anomalies are not presented in the *Assisted Reproductive Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2002* and *Assisted Reproduction Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2003* reports because of variable quality in ascertainment of congenital anomalies in ANZARD. In particular, ANZARD does not report on the source of notification of congenital anomalies and whether the diagnoses have been verified. The scope of the collection does not allow for complete reporting of congenital anomalies.

Previously published data in Assisted Conception reports on congenital anomalies should be interpreted with caution due to the limitations described above.

Perinatal mortality

Perinatal deaths presented in the *Assisted Reproductive Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2002* and *Assisted Reproduction Technology in Australia and New Zealand 2003* reports are based on deaths reported to the NPSU and may differ from registered deaths compiled by the Australian Bureau of Statistics.