



Donor linking factsheet

This factsheet is for people wanting to connect using VARTA's Donor Conception Register Services (DCRS). This includes:

- Donors
- Donor-conceived people
- Parents of donor-conceived people
- Relatives/descendants of donors
- Relatives/descendants of donor-conceived people.

What does VARTA offer?

We manage the Donor Conception Central Register and Voluntary Register.

We offer confidential advice and support to people applying to access information on the registers about people they may be connected to through donor conception fertility treatment in Victoria.

We are experienced in helping people link through donor conception treatment and can:

1. Provide information about how the registers work.
2. Help you through the application process if you want to access information on the registers.
3. Give available information (in accordance with Victorian law) about a person you are connected to through donor conception treatment.
4. Support you if you are the subject of someone's application for the release of information. We will make all reasonable efforts to notify you if we are going to release information about you.
5. Assist with making contact in the early stages of donor linking if you match with another person, and give you the tools to stay in touch.

Our staff will be neutral, maintain confidentiality, and respect your choices and opinions.

Connecting for the first time

If you have been matched with someone, we can help you connect. Connecting for the first time can be hard, so our staff can:

1. Help you prepare your initial letter and set out your reasons for wanting to connect.
2. Support you as you consider next steps and how to discuss this with your match.
3. Provide up to five facilitated exchanges of de-identified correspondence over six months from the time you match. This is available if you need help becoming comfortable with communication.
4. Connect you with others who have already been through the donor linking process.

You connected – now what?

If you have connected with someone on the register, we encourage you to find a form of communication that you are comfortable with. Many people feel comfortable using email, but you can also talk on the phone or meet in person.

If you are connected but have not shared any personal details and want to continue communicating, you can use a de-identified email address. If you need help setting this up, please refer to VARTA's [Guide to email forwarding](#) for step-by-step assistance.

For more information

To learn more about donor linking and finding others you may be connected to, visit:

- [Donor conception register services](#)
- [Why donor linking matters](#)
- [Experiences of donor linking](#)
- [Victorian legislation and guidelines](#)

For more general information about VARTA, visit our website: www.varta.org.au.

