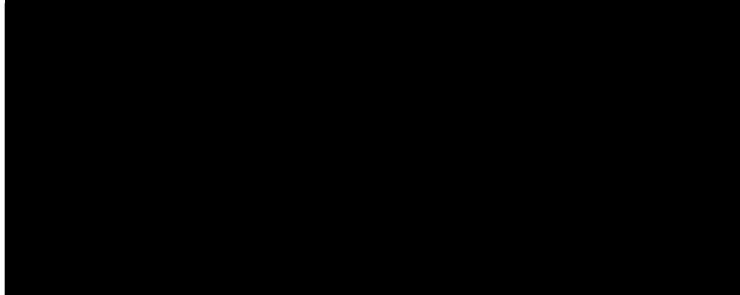


12 November 2019



Re: Official Information Act request – Remains of surgical abortions

I refer to your Official Information Act request dated 25 October 2019 requesting the following information.

I have been directed to ask each DHB in terms of the following, as per the Ministry of Health not holding the information:

I would like to request the pathway of the bodies/remains of those unborn human entities that are aborted, specifically by surgical abortion.

I request to know, in abortions either Vacuum aspiration or Dilatation and Evacuation (D&E), what happens, if anything, to the remains.

I would like to know:

- **Are all remains disposed of, or is there usage of such tissue? If disposed, how is it disposed? If there is other usage, how is such tissue used?**

All products of conception are disposed of with the express consent of the woman.

In abortions performed as either Vacuum aspiration or Dilatation and Evacuation (D&E) the options are:

- 1) Cremation
- 2) Taking the tissue home
- 3) With consent, used for research on placental function

- Is there any usage if a whole body or parts of body is extracted from womb? If so, what are such body parts used for?

No.

You are entitled to seek a review of the response by the Ombudsman under section 28(3) of the Official Information Act. Information about how to make a complaint is available at www.ombudsman.parliament.nz or freephone 0800 802 602.

Please note that this response, or an edited version of this response, may be published on the Auckland DHB website.

Yours faithfully



Ailsa Claire, OBE
Chief Executive

Epsom Day Unit

Pregnancy tissue options and information

If you are undergoing a surgical abortion, your pregnancy tissue will be collected into a “sock”, which sits inside a container. You have the right to choose what you would like to do with your pregnancy tissue after the procedure is complete.

You pregnancy tissue options;

- Taking your tissue home for burial – *please see instructions below*
- Leaving your tissue at Epsom day unit – which will be sent for cremation and the ashes scattered at a location at Mangere lawn Cemetery. – Map overleaf
- You may donate the placenta and decidual tissue to the University of Auckland’s research (please ask the nurse for information sheets regarding this research project). If you decide to donate your tissue, the remaining tissue will be sent for cremation by Epsom Day Unit – please note that you will be required to sign a consent form acknowledging your agreement to take part prior to your procedure.
- You can organise and pay for your own private cremation; a consent form will be given to you to give to the funeral director of your choice. Upon discharge from Epsom Day Unit, you will be given your tissue.

Burying your pregnancy tissue;

- You must choose a place to bury your tissue that is on private/family land; alternatively you may use a large pot plant. You are not permitted to bury your tissue on any land that is public or not within yours or your family’s name.
- If burying the tissue in the ground you will need to dig a deep hole (approximately the length of your forearm).
- Please remove the “sock” from its packaging, cut the plastic top (blue) off the sock, place the sock into the hole then cover with soil. The blue top and packaging need to be disposed of in a general waste bin.
- It is your choice whether you would like to take the whole container home that the sock sits in – this container will also need to be disposed of in the general waste.

MANGERE LAWN CEMETERY TRUST BOARD
85 MCKENZIE ROAD, MANGERE, AUCKLAND

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