

## **Te Kahu-o-te-ora**

The New Zealand Bishops put out a document called Te Kahu-o-te-ora A consistent ethic of life. You can refer to this document here: [A consistent ethic of life](#)

### **Key Principles in the Use of Assisted Human Reproductive Technologies**

#### Respect For the Dignity of Human Life

The human foetus is a human being from conception when ovum and sperm unite to form a unique individual and will only grow in size and complexity.

Human life and dignity must be protected and respected from this very beginning

#### Protection of the Vulnerable

Protection of the welfare and dignity of vulnerable persons includes not only those groups whose rights and rights may be infringed by certain actions those who cannot defend or speak for themselves, and those who are vulnerable in the use of assisted reproductive technology, must always be protected.

#### Respect for Autonomy

This principle of equality is accepted as covering all groups within our society. By extension such respect also takes into account the circumstances of an individual's conception and birth.

#### Informed Consent

Informed consent cannot occur without a comprehensive explanation of all risks and benefits associated with the technology. Knowledge of the long term effects of many of these technologies is as yet insufficient for couples to make a fully informed choice.

#### Balancing of Individual and Collective Interests

As individuals we have the right to autonomy in making decisions about our moral well-being, but in doing so our actions can impact adversely upon society. While individual and collective interests are worthy of protection, the protection of human life is paramount.

#### Right to Genetic Information and Knowledge of Origin

Growth in understanding of the adoption process has illustrated the need to understand our origins and to have access to genetic information.