



2nd May 2025

Media Statement

In recent weeks, there have been a series of media reports following the serious incident at an IVF clinic, including discussing audits undertaken by the Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee (RTAC). IVF clinics in Australia are licensed against a Code of Practice audited by certifying bodies accredited by the Joint Accreditation System for Australia and New Zealand (JAS-ANZ). The system is administered by the Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee (RTAC) of the Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ).

The purpose of an audit is to proactively identify risks (non-conformances), this may be in a clinic's policies or its procedures or *adherence* to a clinic's policies or procedures, in order to prevent errors. A non-conformance (NCR) is an audit term relating to a deviation from established standards, specifications, or procedures.

For any major non-conformances, clinics are provided 30 days to rectify the issue. **To date, no clinic in Australia or New Zealand has failed to rectify a major non-conformance, identified via an audit, within 30 days.**

Audits are designed to proactively safeguard quality and prevent errors. This process promotes swift resolution of issues and upholds the highest standards of patient care. The Australian auditing framework is recognised internationally as best practice and is adopted by IVF providers worldwide.

Despite some claims to the contrary, in the most recent reporting period, only 12 major non-conformances were recorded across RTAC accredited clinics – 6 relating to Australian or New Zealand clinics and 6 to international clinics. All were rectified within the required timeframe, and importantly, none resulted in harm or adverse outcomes.

The [RTAC 2023–2024 Annual Report](#) has been referenced widely. It is critical to clarify that:

- **Claims that there were 172 "breaches" in Australian clinics misrepresent the data.**
- **Only one (1) major NCR was issued to an Australian clinic in the past 12 months (out of approximately 100,000 IVF cycles conducted each year, 2022 data).**
- **All Australian NCRs were procedural or policy-based.**

Consistent with other non-government accreditation bodies, RTAC does not publicly identify any clinic's audit details within annual reports.

Recent media coverage has claimed that identification and traceability issues have risen in Australia year-on-year. This is not accurate. The average number of NCRs per Australian audit has remained stable (1.55 per audit).

Table 1 of the [RTAC annual report](#) shows this context clearly – providing a full breakdown of average NCRs per audit across jurisdictions and years.

Table 1: Audit breakdown (NCRs)

	Number licences	Number audits	Total NCR	Average NCR	Major NCR
<i>Australia</i>	100	111	172	1.55	1
<i>New Zealand</i>	8	8	78	9.75	5
<i>International</i>	51	52	120	2.31	6
Total	159	171	370	2.16	12

Importantly, there is absolutely no evidence of systemic safety failure. Continuous auditing and resolution of non-conformances reflect a mature, responsive, and accountable system.

Outside of the audit process, where a clinic identifies an error has unfortunately occurred, clinics are required to report the incident to RTAC immediately and an investigation is then conducted.

Last year, FSANZ released its report [*Findings, Recommendations, and Framework for an Australian 10-Year Fertility Roadmap*](#). Among the reports 34 recommendations is the need for uniform laws across Australia that govern our sector, as well as the establishment of RTAC as an independent body with increased certification and review capabilities.

While we urge governments to act on all these recommendations, RTAC remains committed to the highest standards of quality, safety and privacy within fertility care, and this requires continuous monitoring, learning and improvement across the sector. The process to establish RTAC as a body independent to FSANZ is under development.

- A spokesperson for *The Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand*

-ENDS-

Media enquiries:

Annette Stenhouse, annette.stenhouse@londonagency.com.au, 0416 861 732

Rebecca Dawson, rebecca.dawson@londonagency.com.au, 0435 948 116

Background:

The Reproductive Technology Accreditation Committee (RTAC) is a subcommittee of the Fertility Society of Australia and New Zealand (FSANZ) reporting to the FSANZ Board.

RTAC issues licences to ART Units that comply with the Code of Practice.

The purpose of both RTAC Codes of Practice is to:

- Promote continuous improvement in the quality of care offered to people accessing fertility treatment.
- Provide a framework and set criteria for the auditing process that leads to accreditation of organisations that deliver fertility services.
- Ensure the auditing process is carried out for all accredited clinics annually at a minimum.

Auditors

- ART Units in Australia and New Zealand were audited against the RTAC Code of Practice (2021) by independent auditors from the Certifying Bodies (CBs).
- Two certifying bodies currently undertake audits of ART Units both in Australia and New Zealand.
- Both CBs are audited and approved by the agency JAS-ANZ.

Footnote

- ‘non-compliance’ – a failure to meet regulatory standards and legal requirements
- ‘breach’ – a term often used interchangeably with *non-compliance* in regulatory or legal contexts