

Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee
Inquiry into Donor Conception in Australia
The Past and Present Practices of Donor Conception in Australia

I am the sole parent of an 18 month old baby conceived using donor sperm. Due to the shortage in Australia for donors I choose a donor from overseas. In doing so I have a some non identifying information for my son when the time comes that he asks questions about his donor. When he is 18 he can request identifying information about his donor. I feel almost privileged that we have this as there are so many donor conceived children that will never have very much information about their donor, besides maybe their hair colour, eye colour, how tall they are. This is just not enough. I believe, all clinics should have adequate amounts of information about donors available to parents from the time they begin trying to conceive using the donor. This information should include health history, physical characteristics, interests, education. I understand that all donors used now must be id release.

I believe donors should be limited to 10 family's nationwide. The donor I used to conceive my child, I used in NSW where at the time had a 10 family limit. I believe now that clinics in other states are also using the same donor, which have a family limit of 10 also. If all states and territory's that allow the use of imported donor sperm use every donor to the full extent of their state or territory limit there could easily be over 50 children conceived with the same donor. If a national registry were set up to regulate the use of donors this could be avoided.

I also believe a national registry needs to be introduced for the children born from donor gametes and their family's to make contact with one another, this could potentially help with the risk of consanguine relationships. If biological siblings know of each other, this would be much less of a risk. The needing for parents of donor conceived children also need to be honest with their children is paramount in reducing the risk.

At the end of the day, we are here for the children. Donors donate to help create babies/children/adults – people of the future. Not allowing them as much information about half of their genetic makeup as is adequate or help in connecting with their half genetic siblings is just not right.