

July 15 2010

To the Senate Inquiry into the Past & Present Practices of Donor Conception in Australia

My daughter is a donor conceived child and my son is adopted. My daughter yearns to know the identity of her biological father & he has already agreed in writing that if the laws are ever updated that he is willing to know who his offspring are. I strongly feel that all donor conceived people should have access to information about their donor no matter which state or territory in Australia they were born in and no matter when they were born. Prior to conception both myself & her biological father signed legal waivers & both of us are willing for my daughter to find out who her biological father is.

As it presently stands, donor conceived people are the only group of people in Australia who have information about their biological parentage deliberately kept from them by organisations and governments.

The denial of this information is likely to be psychologically harmful to donor conceived people on many levels. It may also be detrimental to their physical wellbeing by preventing them from having a full family medical history.

In all states of Australia adoptees have more rights than donor conceived people because access to information for adoptees was made retrospective. In most states relinquishing parents were also given a promise that their children would not be able to find out who they were but this was changed because when adoption laws were debated it was decided that making it retrospective was in the best interests of adoptees. So the argument used by many people that donors were promised anonymity doesn't quite work. In my case & many more, documents have been signed by both parties both approving release of information for the benefit of the child.

I ask that the Committee strongly & persistently recommends that the Federal Government enacts legislation ASAP to give all Australian Donor Conceived People the right to have access to all available information on their donors. To deny this is a denial of basic human rights.

Yours,