

16 August 2010

Home Phone No:

Email:

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

My name is _____ and my son is _____, we are from Newcastle NSW and 12 years ago the only option we had to have children was to use donor sperm from Queensland, whose laws are antiquated, or to ask a relative which neither my husband or I was comfortable about.

At the time of counselling with _____ I was under the impression things were changing and fertility clinics were keeping information and would assist in the future but much to my dismay when I was first diagnosed with cancer 6 years ago when I rang _____ (Now known as _____) for any further information on _____'s background I hit a very solid brick wall. I was very disappointed especially when we were led to believe the clinic's doors would always be open for help in the future.

When _____ was born I shed a few tears because of our decision to go ahead with donor conception **we have stolen from _____ his right to know his full biological heritage** just so donor's are protected from perceived claims on their estates, expenses etc. Once again it all comes down to protecting money not the child's right.

This senate inquiry is very important to me as I now have only a few months to live and will lose his only biological connection thru me. I would like to die knowing that in the future the laws will change and plus be back dated so everyone born through donor practices will have chance of finding a little information about themselves.

As a parent of donor conceived child I 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 and no matter when they were born.

In the current situation 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 can be psychologically harmful to donor conceived people. It may also be detrimental to their physical wellbeing by preventing them from having a full family medical history.

I ask that the Committee recommends that the Federal Government enacts legislation to give all Australian Donor Conceived People the right to have access to all available information on their donors.

These are the **minimum** things I would like to see happening:

1. History background on donor parent plus photos.
2. A register listing all siblings born to that donor parent & what state, town they are living in. If I remember correctly (doubtful after 18mths chemo) he has approximately 13 sibling all together. Queensland 12; NSW 1.
3. Medical background on donor – as I am dying of cancer my son is very concern he may have inherited a medical minefield.
4. Donor children have the same rights as adoptive children.

– donor child's wish list;

1. said he doesn't need two fathers, he loves this dad who has brought him up but he would love to see a photo of the donor so he can see some of physical aspects he may have inherited.
2. not interested in knowing the donor or in his money, just curiosity value.
3. In light of my illness, wants & feels he has a right to any medical information from donor.
4. Wants to know how many children the donor has.
5. Wants to know how if there are any other donor children & see a register made so they can get in touch with one another.

I apologise for the latest of my submission but I have been unwell and have also been in hospital. We also like to thank you for taking time to read our submission and I know the senate will make the correct & moral decision to change present day practices in favour of the donor children and also make the laws uniform throughout Australia.

Yours faithfully,

Mother.