

27th August 2010

To the Senate Inquiry

Re: Donor Offspring - Information to our biological heritage

I am a 47 year old female who was conceived using anonymous donor sperm in London.

The doctor who inseminated my mother was Dr Reynold Boyd at 52 Harley Street.

Apparently he sourced sperm from the University students near by.

I am a television and documentary director and producer and a registered psychologist in NSW.

I was told that I was conceived using donor sperm when I was 14 and this was only because I knew something wasn't quite right and kept asking my mother whether I was the product of an affair.

My suspicions were aroused because my social father is tall and dark and I'm very blonde and fair. Studying biology in school confirmed that brown eyes should dominate green but this wasn't the case in our family!

I was relieved when my mother told me the truth of my conception however I have since tried to find out some information about my biological father, to no avail.

The son of Reynold Boyd, a doctor himself, made a statement in court saying all the records had been destroyed by rain and he'd put them in a skip bin.

I have got my DNA on two International Donor Offspring websites offering me a vague chance of finding a half sibling or perhaps the donor. Very unlikely this will be successful as it was all kept so secretive back then.

I think it's very important for children to be offered information about their biological heritage. It's important to their identity and sense of self.

I believe knowing your heritage is a fundamental reference point to understanding who you are on a deep level - and acknowledging and confirming your skills, abilities, interests and attitudes.

I don't believe in lies, I believe in the truth. I think families who attempt to maintain such a significant deception by not telling children about their conception or by not providing them with information about their biological fathers may face the risk of their kids feeling sad, angry, betrayed and struggling with their identity in the future.

I truly believe children conceived using donor sperm should have access to identifying information about their biological father – or at the very least extensive information about his career, interests, personality, family diseases and physical characteristics.

We don't want to claim these donors as fathers but they are the missing link to knowing who we truly are on a fundamental level. Which to a lot of donor offspring in my situation is an intrinsic human right.

I'm not opposed to donor insemination but the consequences for the child as it grows up needs to be taken into consideration and pivotal to this is access to information about their biological heritage.

Thank you.