

I forward my submission to the Donor Conception Inquiry in hope that the voices of people affected by the current legislation (or lack of) will be heard and a change will be made for future generations.

I am a donor conceived adult, conceived at the Royal Women's Hospital (Paddington) and born in 1982. I only became aware of my origins by mistake when I was 19yrs old. Upon contacting the RHW for what should be a basic human right, to have knowledge of the social and medical history of my donor, information on any half siblings etc, I was appalled to discover that my donor records were destroyed to protect donor anonymity. I believe all donor conceived children and adults should be allowed access to information on their donors and siblings and can't stress enough the importance of this.

I know firsthand how confusing it is to not have any idea who you are like, if you are at risk of certain hereditary diseases, if you have any half siblings and if you will ever get the chance to meet them.

I think that Australia needs to pull its act together and make legislation equal in all states for what is a basic human right – for us donor conceived people to be legally entitled to information on our donors and half siblings.

There needs to be a national register restricting the number of donations that can be made across all states, to prevent horrible but very real situations occurring of donors having anywhere up to 80 donor offspring. You can only imagine the repercussions of this when you think these offspring will all be similar and may meet and form relationships unbeknown to them their genetic link.

It shouldn't be such a struggle to find out the most basic of information, especially in this day and age.