

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

I am a single woman who used donor sperm to conceive a much wanted child. The journey I took in making the decision to have a child through this method was a difficult and challenging one and everyone's journey in becoming a parent is different.

As a parent of a 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.

While I am internally grateful for the generosity of my sperm donor and the incredible support I have had from family, friends and professionals it hasn't been easy. As a single woman living in Victoria with no known fertility issues I was forced to access treatment in NSW where there is not register or opportunity to obtain information about the donor at a later stage. To complicate matters further my donor donated at a Queensland clinic. Hence our story spans three States.

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.

At the time of treatment the only thing I knew about the donor was his eye colour, hair colour, height, weight, blood group and occupation. Through persistence and the willingness of clinics and staff I have been fortunate in obtaining additional non identifying information regarding my donor. This includes information about his hobbies and interests and family background. This may seem a small thing but in my view helps create a more three dimensional view of the donor therefore providing my son with a better sense of who his donor is.

Over the past couple of years my son has been diagnosed with ADHD and Aspergers Syndrome. There are a number of studies that show a genetic link for both of these conditions to the 'father'. As such I am even more interested in obtaining up to date medical information relating to the donor. The information I have now is over 10 years old and may not take into account any medical information relevant to the donors own children. My attempts to obtain more current information has not been productive.

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.

Yours Sincerely