

Inquiry into the past and present practices of donor conception in Australia

My name is _____ and I am the sole parent of 2 children conceived using donor sperm (born 2006 and 2009).

When I choose my donor I was given very little information – hair and eye colour, height weight and blood type. I was told that my donor was identity release (my child could find out their identity once they turned 18). When I was pregnant with the 2nd child from the same donor I decided to ring my NSW clinic to find out how many other families had the same donor as us. I made repeated phone calls and emails however got no reply from my clinic. I therefore decided to directly contact the clinic in Queensland where the sperm had come from. They provided me with 3 pieces of information;

They were unaware of our family (successful conception with their donor)

They informed me that my donor was anonymous.

The Queensland clinic also sent me a full profile of our donor that was several pages long.

I am very disappointed that the information that I was given about my donor being id release was incorrect. I never would have selected this donor if I had been told that upfront.

I was also disappointed and quite surprised to find that my clinic hadn't bothered to inform the Queensland clinic that I had a child. How is anyone supposed to control the number of families created if sperm is being sent to several clinics and these clinics are not reporting births back to the originating clinic?

It makes no sense to me why my NSW clinic decided to with hold the full donor profile from me. The full profile that I was given was completely different from the cut down version (different hair colour, eye colour, height) and so now I'm not even sure if the clinic did in fact use the same donor for both of my children or if there was some record mix up.

I would like to see the clinics better regulated in both their processes and their record keeping.

My children now have no rights to find out who their donor is. This is hugely upsetting but there is very little I can do about it. We have listed our details on the donor sibling website and hope that someday some of the other families or the donor himself contacts us.

I would like to see donor conceived children given the same rights that adopted children were given some 20 years ago to know their biological roots. I don't even think that this would be an issue with most donors (I have a friend works in adoptions and says that around 40% of their search requests are actually from the biological parents hoping to make contact with their donor conceived child). I think that the issue is more with the clinics making the decision on our behalf (both the donor and recipient may not agree with what the clinic is imposing on them).

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission to this enquiry.

Kind Regards,