

'What would you do if you were told you had no right to access information about your own identity?' Narelle Grace Grech T5s Daughter

My Sister is 27 years old and was conceived using anonymous donor sperm from the closed down Prince Henry's Hospital in Melbourne, Victoria in 1982.

As an Australian I have always been proud by our democratic society, our freedom of speech and the laws protecting all our citizens. However it saddens me to come to terms with the injustice that is served upon donor conceived people. A legislation which allows and somehow even justifies fraudulent activities to protect one group of citizens to protect that groups identity and rights; whilst sacrificing the other groups rights and yet making it lawful.

If only you too had a sibling, a child or a close friend go through what I witness first hand from my sisters grief and everyday struggle to gain the information which should be rightfully hers. To hear her excited because some office worker just revealed a secret code of her donor T5, to hear her excited because she found out that she has seven siblings but no further information is granted, to hear her crying because she can not find out her true heritage, to see her struggling with the fact that her information is in a file somewhere in Melbourne but she is never allowed to gain access, to hear her speak about her ailments, her strengths and wonders if her donor father also carries these traits. To see her sadness when she can not answer her GP when she is asked is breast cancer in the family? Is diabetes in the family? To be walking down the street and see someone who looks quite similar to her and then we all wonder is that her sibling? To truly understand this strong girl will and pain please refer to her blog: <http://t5sdaughter.blogspot.com>, to truly understand her journey.

Why should my sister be fighting for this information, why should she be excited to gain the tiny pieces of clues about who she is, how she was created. Yet this girl is a very strong individual smart, funny and is doing all she can to help others as a social worker; so when, I ask are we going to help others like her. When are we going to say enough is enough and equal rights need to be preserved over this money making scheme.

Where is the justice in this law? As Murphy's law would have it I am 35 and have been struggling to conceive for quite some time so my family do understand every

spectre of this debate, but one thing is certain if I did conceive a child from a donor egg I would want a true birth certificate with accurate information on that document which would tell my child exactly who and how they were conceived. I would want my child never to be without all the information that is rightfully theirs. I would never consent to a child being born with a fraudulent birth certificate. I would never want a child to be born without the rights every other Australian child is given. I would never want to witness this struggle and pain again.

Have we not learnt anything about our past mistakes secrets are always evil having an equal open society is prosperous and healthy. How is it that we are only protecting the rights of the donors, does this give you more votes? How is it that gay couples can now conceive using donors showing progress and yet with a double edged sword we are now back in the 1800's holding secrets from our children about their true identities. Such mixed messages, Australia needs to clean this up, have one legislation to reflect all Australians not depending on state. Have one legislation which is true and fair to protect all our children.

Australians need to have:

- Accurate and true Birth Certificates which reflect their true identity
- Support for All DC Children
- DC Children should have Access to all Records and should not differ between States
- Those records need to be given to all DC children and not kept in hiding regardless of all backward deals made in the 70's and 80's –seriously who are you really protecting????????
- Limiting the number of donors, perhaps restricting to only one family preventing problems of procreation in the future

The current legislation is cruel, discriminatory and dehumanising in every way. Let's have a society without secrets, let's not just rely and pray that your doctor who helped conceive you is the only chance you will ever get in finding out how 50% of you was made. Did we not learn from our past mistakes? Being a minority in isolation and fighting a cause with so much red tape and different from state to state is confusing.

Knowing that you have the power to change these crippling laws, you too must question **'What would I do if I was told that I had no right to access information about my own identity?'**