

Sarah Clay

24<sup>th</sup> April, 2022

## Re: Inquiry Into Matters Relating to Donor Conception Information

My name is Sarah, I'm a Queer person of 38 years of age, currently living in Victoria. I found out at 37 years old, via a letter arriving in the mail that I was donor conceived. I was conceived at [REDACTED] in Melbourne, born April 1984, assumed female at birth. My own father passed away suddenly in April, 2013 so have no ability to discuss any of this with him. Since receiving this information, I have managed to track down (via Facebook, as [REDACTED] were unable to support in a way which I viewed as respectful, trauma informed or suitable for my needs), my donor, and the knowledge I have 8 other siblings out there.

Some of these other siblings were also unaware of their status as a Donor Conceived Person (DCP), which naturally brings pain as we find out we have an additional parent, additional siblings, knowledge we were lied to our entire life, close to 40 years of lost contact with our relatives. I have been denied my whole life, contact with my biological father. I have been denied contact, my whole life, contact with my 8 other siblings. I have been denied contact, my whole life, accurate medical information. My ten year old child has been denied access, her whole life, honest and accurate information to her medical history her whole life until this point.

My mental health has suffered, I feel grief for a sibling I know has passed away and had been denied the opportunity to meet them by the lies and red tape. I feel grief for the lost decades of contact with my family. I feel grief for the life I had prior to this and have not been able to access suitable psychological support to help with this. I have been asked for money to have contact with my siblings by [REDACTED], an organisation who imply they are there to support DCP. This is utterly disgusting.

My biological father and siblings I have had contact with are all incredibly people. We have all suffered, in our own way, at the hands of an unregulated industry who prioritise profits over people and cause ongoing pain for decades.

What I ask for, is listening to the perspective of DCP when making decisions about us. We must be first and foremost at the focus of outcomes. We must have access to our biological parents (regardless of what agreements they may have made when the fertility industry did not have access to the information they do now in terms of best outcome for a DCP). We must have access to our siblings. We must be provided this information at no cost to us. We must be aware of our status and have access to our donors from birth. Reasonable family limits must be enforced for donors, it is really, really hard to keep up with multiple families to connect with our kin and should be reasonable.

Thank you for your time and consideration  
Sincerely,

Sarah Clay  
(She/ They)