

Mr Ross Hunter

28th of April, 2022

Re: Inquiry Into Matters Relating to Donor Conception Information

Good afternoon. My name is Ross Hunter and I discovered I was donor-conceived (DC) in 2009. A monumental amount of change has occurred in my life since discovering such life altering news, when my father was dying of Alzheimer's Disease. Mum decided that it was time to tell me something important, and despite the shock of losing half of my identity and the concomitant bewilderment, grief and anger - I am so grateful that she had the courage to share this.

Queensland is on the threshold of making these kinds of discoveries for DC people earlier, within a regulated framework, and with the psychological services needed to buffer the impact. I ask you to have the courage to first consider the requests of the people most heavily affected by assisted reproductive technology (ART), and not just mouthpieces of the powerful fertility industry. Like many DC people, I am not opposed to ART- I merely believe that we have certain inalienable rights that most people take for granted. Clinics need to do better and they can no longer be complicit in discombobulating DC people; whether those affected by past practices or the generations to come.

I am one of the 'unlucky' ones amongst the growing gallery of DC people in my state of Victoria. By this, I mean that my mother's sperm donor exercised his contact veto- and does not wish to have contact with me. Like most DC people, I respect and to an extent understand his position. In exercising this veto I was, however, enabled to find out his name. With this, I have been able to research my ethnic origins and get a bit of an idea of the constellation of my paternal line. Furthermore, my biological father was kind enough to give me an A4 page of information that has answered some of my questions about his profession and ethnicity - things that were really important for me to find out.

Do not be caught napping in this space, because home delivered DNA tests have completely changed the game for DC people. It is much better for you to have some sense of agency in this process so that the citizens of your great state are not disadvantaged in establishing lives of physical and existential health in an already complex world.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,

Ross Hunter