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**From:** [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, 29 April 2022 4:27 PM  
**To:** Legal Affairs and Safety Committee; [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Donor Conception Submission

**Categories:** Submission

My apologies upfront for having to email you my submission at such a late stage. Unfortunately I do not have access to a computer right now so am emailing you on my phone. Please include my story.

#### SUBMISSION

By a Queensland Recipient Mother to the QLD Parliament Inquiry into Matters relating to Donor Conception Information  
29 April 2022  
By Margaret Bellas

[REDACTED]

I am pleased to be able to respond to the call for submissions to this Assisted Reproductive Treatment (ART) Inquiry.

Early in our marriage, we soon realised we were having trouble conceiving so approached our GP who suggested my husband undergo some simple tests. It was then we received the tragic news that he was infertile probably due to a bout of mumps as a child. His sperm count showed NO live sperm so our options were very limited going forward. This understandably was devastating to us as we had always planned to have a large family.

Sperm donation was suggested & after many discussions & tears, we decided that having one natural parent was preferable to none if we adopted. Using a donor, would also ensure that we could take all necessary precautions during the pregnancy & birth.

The process in those early days was quite simple. Basically we went to [REDACTED] with all our medical records & met the gynaecologist who explained the medical process of insemination. We were advised that a donor would be matched to my husband's ethnicity, build & colouring which clearly was not the case. We were never given a choice of donor but were assured that all donors were medical students who had passed strict medical testing to ensure they were healthy with no underlying medical issues. In order to proceed, we had to sign a legally binding Confidentiality Agreement forbidding us from ever endeavouring to find out who the donor was. This was to protect the donor from any financial or support claims from either ourselves or our offspring. It was all to be 'a secret'. A very scary situation to ever find yourself in but desperate measures for desperate people.

Donor sperm resulted in my having 3 beautiful children over the years but all was not 'roses'. Any medical problems that presented whilst growing up, always caused anxiety as I only ever had access to one side of a family's medical history.

One of the hardest things I ever had to do was to inform my children of their origins as obviously I had no answers for their many questions & no way of ever finding any.

Since Ancestry .com has come on the scene, some people are finally finding out some answers but it is not enough for those who want to know more.

We really had no rights, neither the recipient nor the donor & that was wrong. I will always be grateful for the generosity donors but more should be done for those who want that 'secret' information from the past.

The Rights of Donor Conceived Persons(implying mutual consent where applicable) As a recipient mother, I would like to know:

1. Any medical history of relevance of the Sperm Donor (by mutual consent) 2. The identity of Sperm Donors so children can form relationships in the open - no more secrets if they so desire.

I therefore support the principle of retrospectivity when legislating to provide the release of identifying information about donors to donor conceived persons & vice versa.

I am happy to share my story & welcome being contacted if that would be of assistance.

Sent from my iPhone