
From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, 29 April 2022 5:01 PM
To: Legal Affairs and Safety Committee
Subject: Submission to Inquiry into matters relating to donor conception information
Categories: Submission

Dear Committee Secretariat

I wish to make an individual submission to the Inquiry.

I am a donor conceived person (DCP) from New Zealand who resides in Queensland. I am making a submission, at 2 minutes before the closing time, because (as many of my fellow DCPs will understand) advocacy often occurs in between our everyday lives, when we can grab a moment. This is particularly sad and exhausting when you consider what we are advocating for relates to our very identity.

So with that in mind, may I politely request that the Committee excuses the format of this submission, and instead focuses on the intent.

I have already submitted a submission on behalf of Donor Conceived Aotearoa, where we fulsomely respond to questions regarding the Committee's areas of consideration. However, I also wanted to add my personal perspective, as a DCP who has experienced the positive impact of a register. I will keep this short, but welcome an opportunity to present in more detail on my personal experience to a future Committee hearing.

Unlike many other DCPs, I am lucky - my parents told me about my conception relatively early, the sperm donor they used wasn't anonymous, and I have had the benefit of contacting not only my genetic father, but his children (my half siblings), and numerous other half siblings conceived using the same donor. I am one of nine people conceived from my genetic father's donations, which combined with his two own children creates a lot of siblings.

I am thankful for the visibility I have regarding my siblings, but remain concerned about the remaining three siblings who are yet unknown.

So unlike other NZ DCPs, I do not have an immediate need to use the voluntary register established under the *Human Assisted Reproductive Technology Act 2004* to connect with my genetic origins. However, despite its futility in some regards and the redundancy of it in my circumstance, the Act and the Register has had a profound impact on my well being. It is a signal from the government of New Zealand that my rights matter, and deserve to be protected.

When I moved to Queensland, I was horrified at the lack of protections for DCPs and non existent access to information regarding their conception.

I strong urge the Committee to consider the experiences of DCPs and prioritise giving Queensland DCPs the respect they deserve.

Please keep my contact details including my email address confidential. However, this email (including my name) can be published as a submission.

Sophie Turner
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