

## 2022 Submission into the Inquiry into Donor Conception Practices in Queensland

I write this submission as a sole parent donor recipient of same donor offspring who are now adults and teenagers, living in Brisbane and conceived at Queensland's largest fertility clinic, [REDACTED]. I have had numerous interactions with the clinic since around June 2000.

I had initially made contact with a clinic based at the [REDACTED] in early 2000, however, they advised me that they would not treat single women. There was no legislation or regulation that guided their decision on this. This would be treated as discriminatory in 2022.

At [REDACTED], I was initially provided very basic information to choose my donor – it consisted of around 3 x A4 lines of unidentifying data. I birthed my son in 2001, started the SMC Australia forum (which is now the penultimate social media platform for single women wanting to become mothers by choice), and went back to [REDACTED] to conceive my next children in 2003 and 2007.

Over this time, I have contacted [REDACTED] many times, and provided my permission for our donor or other donor recipients to contact me, or my (now) adult children. I have also asked for [REDACTED] to comply with the NHMC Guidelines which have changed over this time however have always been that clinics make and maintain contact with donors. This has not happened with [REDACTED], until around 3 years ago, when they sought contact however (as advised by [REDACTED]) the donor's contact info had changed.

Over the past few years, my children have now met some of their donor siblings through the Donor Sibling Registry, a USA-based registry that has been established for over 25 years. Even over this time, when asking [REDACTED] for information, they have declined to acknowledge.

There is also the issue of the Birth Certificates of my children not being truly representative of their origins. My children are all full siblings, created by myself and our donor (and this has been proven by DNA testing over the years). However – the older siblings are not listed on the younger's birth certificates.

Over the past TWO DECADES I have attempted to gain the support of my local MP and I was only engaged with Stirling Hinchliffe circa 2006 – who organised a meeting with the A/G at the time – Cameron Dick – regarding this. He then put me in contact with the person responsible at the time for the BDM Act – apparently this was in the process of being changed... however no changes have been evident to date.

I find it abhorrent that the Queensland Attorney General has taken NO steps towards the recommendations tabled in [https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary\\_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal\\_and\\_Constitutional\\_Affairs/Completed\\_inquiries/2010-13/donorconception/index](https://www.aph.gov.au/Parliamentary_Business/Committees/Senate/Legal_and_Constitutional_Affairs/Completed_inquiries/2010-13/donorconception/index)

This includes the Recommendations that:

*The committee recommends that jurisdictions which do not already have legislation in place, namely Queensland, Tasmania, the Northern Territory, and the Australian Capital Territory, should, as a matter of priority, establish legislation to regulate donor conception in those jurisdictions.*

Ultimately, Queensland DESPERATELY need the fertility industry to be legislated (and not self-regulated as it is now). I look forward to direct contact and engagement with the Commission into this very important matter.

Robyn [REDACTED]