

Committee Secretary  
Legal Affairs and Safety Committee  
Parliament House  
George Street  
Brisbane Qld 4000

#### Committee Members

Thank you for the opportunity to make a submission for the inquiry for issues relating to access to donor conception information. I am writing to you as a known egg donor to 7 successful families and someone who has done anonymous donation that was split between two families. I completed my anonymous donation before I researched donor conceived people's experiences and deeply regretted it. The IVF clinic I did this cycle through, split my cycle even though it was against the state (this particular one was done in NSW) recommendation of family limits to push me to 6 families. They did this knowingly and I now have great reserve whether after they also avoided many emails from me trying to find out if there were successful births, they have now after years of saying that both families had one embryo frozen each that both families unsuccessfully used their last embryo within the time of me contacting them again, this seems highly weird to me but I can only go via the clinics word. I deeply regret this as I can never tell any of the people conceived from my DNA (including my own raising children) and be exactly certain how many half siblings they may actually have, this also carries into the next generation, of how many half 1<sup>st</sup> cousins may be unknown. I would also like the people who I helped create know that I wanted them to have all of their rights as a human being afforded to them. It is a basic human right, want and need to know who you are as a person and genetics play an important role within that self-identity as well as family medical history and such which can be so vital within someone's health needs.

#### **Issues relating to access to donor conception information, including:**

##### **Rights of donor-conceived persons, including to know their genetic origin**

Within the triad of stakeholders in this situation of donor conception; recipient parents, donors and donor conceived people. The focus at the moment is on the recipient parent and donors' rights, noting that these two parties are parties that consented to conceiving life in this manner, I therefore think that the rights of the donor conceived person who had no say in their participation should be at the forefront of their rights being established and protected by the state enforcing clinics to adhere to means of protecting their rights to know their genetic origin.

**a. Extent to which identifying information about donors should be given to donor-conceived persons, taking into consideration the right to privacy of donors;**

All identifying information about donors should be given to donor conceived people from birth. Donors have a choice whether they want to donate their gametes or not. The donors right to privacy should not trump the donor conceived persons right to their medical and personal identity. Donor anonymity has been rendered useless via the use of commercial DNA testing anyways but donor conceived people shouldn't have to pay for a DNA test, nor have to do the detective work that comes with this to figure out who their donor is. If a donor is not willing to be known, to the donor conceived people in whom they are creating then they really should not be donating under the premise of altruistic help.

**b. Access to historical clinical records and implications of retrospectivity;**

The date of a person's birth should not dictate their rights to this information and any changes should be retrospective. To give all donor conceived people right to their own personal information no matter when they were conceived or born.

**c. Whether a register should be established; and**

A register should be established so that donor conceived people can access this information easily

**d. Benefits, risks and implications on donor conception practices arising from any recommendations**

I'm sure that there may be some people that this may deter from donating but I think that would actually be very slim. There can be a beautiful non threatening way to do known donation. Where the resulting people benefit from having loving raising parents, knowing their genetic makeup and having those known connections with not only their donor but their half genetic siblings from a young age to establish and maintain loving relationships.

In conclusion I would like to see the committee take donor conceived experiences and rights at the forefront of this legislation.

- Access to self-identity from birth
- Retrospective
- Establish a register

Thanks Lyndal Dell

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