

16/09/10

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Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600 Australia

Claire, Tony and
Cedric Keefe

Re: Federal Inquiry into Donor Conception.

To the Senate Legal and Constitutional
Affairs References Committee,

This submission is not confidential

Please accept my apology for this late
submission, I hope the committee will
consider it.

We have a ten year old son Cedric conceived
using an anonymous sperm donor with
treatment at Repromed in Adelaide in 1999.

We believe Legislation and Regulations
relating to offspring conceived from use of

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Donor Sperm, eggs or embryos needs to be very similar to legislation for Adoption and Adoptees.

Legislation needs to be retrospective if records exist, to cover all offspring conceived regardless of era.

We need a National Register for Australia to show Donors details offspring born and all Siblings, we feel this is critical to avoid the chance of consanguine relationships

Clinics and Hospitals must not be able to destroy personal information or record relating to any Donors or children born as a result from assisted reproductive technologies.

Births registration form should have a section to complete if child is conceived using donated gametes to show biological parent or parents if known, as I felt I wasn't able to be totally honest when recording my husband as my sons father, he is his father who loves him but not his biological father. (I did phone births, deaths & marriages for assistance in filling out form at the time and was told to

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record my husband as the father.)

We feel strongly that these and many other changes to this area of conception must be made as soon as possible, as to know your biological origins is a very basic human right, to deny children or parents could be harmful or lead to serious long term effects or mental illness.

Our son knows of his conception and has known since age four.

Over time we have tried to give him some answers to his questions. We have our Donors non-Identifying Information Donor Code

Physical Characteristics.

Social Information (very basic)

He has six children (not as a result from donating)

Medical Screening (not even blood group)

So our son has six brothers or sisters that we know of ages unknown.

I phoned our clinic and requested our donors christian name so we didn't have to refer to him as our sperm donor.

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His name is Peter. We are very thankful for his help to conceive our son who incidently would love to know if he has his nose or looks or mannerisms. Our donor hasn't kept contact with our clinic Repromed but if he does ~~contact~~ them they know we would like further information.

A photo of donor in records would be a great keepsake for our son and us.

P.S. The day my son said to me "I wonder if I have Peter's nose?" broke my heart!

Please help us and others in the same situation in our quest to be able to access our personal and medical information if requested.

Yours Sincerely
Claire, Tony and
Cedric Keefe