

Inquiry into Donor Conception – Public Hearing 3 November 2010, Questions on Notice

In response to the below Questions on Notice posed to the Western Australian Department of Health, Reproductive Technology Unit, please find below a table that outlines birth outcome data resulting from donor conception in Western Australia for 1993 to 2009. Figures for 1993 to 2002 were derived from collated RT Register data; participant marital status was not distinguished in this collated data format and so was not able to be provided for this time period. The figures for 2003 to 2009 have been derived from birth outcome data provided by fertility clinics in Western Australia. Linkage to birth outcome data from the WA Midwives Notification System (MNS) is not currently being undertaken due to the need to clarify the effect of confidentiality restrictions on linkage to the MNS under current WA assisted reproductive technology legislation. Data provided is as accurate as possible but due to the current inability to perform linkage, birth outcome information may not be complete.

Department of Health, Western Australia	32	Barnett	<p>CHAIR—We have been trying to get estimates of how many donor conceived individuals there are in Australia. Firstly, do you know how many there are per year? Secondly, how many in Western Australia are there and how many per year?</p> <p>Ms O’Callaghan—That is information that I would need to provide to you, perhaps in written form later, if you were able to pose those questions in writing. Our register would capture that information so we could let you know.</p> <p>CHAIR—That would be very much appreciated. We are happy for you to take that on notice.</p> <p>Ms O’Callaghan—That information has been recorded in WA since 1991 with the establishment of the RT register. Before that we would not be able to say how many donor conceived children there were in this state.</p>
Department of Health, Western Australia	32	Barnett	<p>CHAIR—Okay. We had a change in the law in 2002 with the Federal Court case of McBain where that Federal Court struck down the federal law and said that it was discriminatory if these services were offered to people in a single-women or homosexual relationship other than being in a heterosexual relationship whether it was inconsistent with state law or not. I am interested to know if you have any numbers on how many—again, I am happy for you to take it on notice—of the donor conceived individuals going to a heterosexual relationship or any other type of relationship and if you can break it down, again on notice, into single mothers or same-sex relationships or heterosexual relationships and marriage relationships. Are you able to break that down for us?</p> <p>Ms O’Callaghan—On notice we may be able to tell you information about married couples or couples in a de facto relationship. We would also be able to tell you single women who are treated under the HRT Act.</p> <p>CHAIR—Thank you very much.</p> <p>Ms O’Callaghan—However that is not going to identify necessarily those women in a same-sex relationship.</p> <p>CHAIR—To the extent that you can provide that information, that would be appreciated.</p>

Number of children born from donor conception, Western Australia 1993-2009

Year	ART participant: couples	ART participant: Single woman*	ART participant: Unknown status	All births
1993			28	28
1994			74	74
1995			60	60
1996			74	74
1997			64	64
1998			64	64
1999			61	61
2000			71	71
2001			66	66
2002			49	49
2003	18	13	6	37
2004	26	19	15	60
2005	25	8	14	47
2006	43	13	8	64
2007	27	15	3	45
2008	47	19	6	72
2009	37	28	3	68
Total	223	115	666	1004

* this figure may include same sex female couples.