

Next year we will emigrate from Europe to Australia.

I knew recently the donor situation in Australia was discussed and I knew about an inquiry at the senate. I briefly had a look at the subject but did not pay much attention to it, not really knowing the meaning of a submission to the senate. I regarded it as an Australian thing, and not of my business to contribute as a foreign person.

But how very wrong I was. After reading some of the submissions and thus gaining more knowledge about the Australian situation of donor conceived children, I realize it is not relevant whether it is **MY** business or not as a foreigner, it is **OUR CHILDREN'S** business, regardless the country.

Reading about the situation in Australia, on behalf of my children, I am so grateful I finished trying to conceive (four years of using DI treatments, IVF treatments, ICSI treatments, FETs and two miscarriages) before we move to Australia.

I am so lucky to have a 3 year old boy and a new born baby daughter. My children did not contribute to my fertility problems. It is not their fault, nor mine. I just cannot believe they could be the victim of disorganized regulation and data management of such an important matter.

I am so happy for my children they were born under Dutch legislation, of which the most important issues addressing this matter are:

- In Holland, anonymous donation is prohibited;
- All clinics in Holland must report the donors identifying information at the national government registration office (run by the Ministry of Health);
- All clinics must report all identifying information of the children that are conceived by donor to the registration office mentioned above;
- GP's of donor conceived children are allowed to request medical information as supplied by the donor;
- Parents of donor conceived children have the right to receive social and physical information about the donor once the children are born;
- All donor conceived children (after they turn 12) have the right to receive social and physical information about their donor;
- Donor conceived children (after they turn 16) have the right to receive their donors first and family name, date of birth and full address;
- The registration office is linked to the Civil Registry Office, so the address of donors is always traceable;
- All information at the registration office is archived for at least eighty years.
- A donor does not have any right to gain access to information about their offspring.

All the above is determined at national level and compared to Australian donor conceived children, my children are lucky to fall under Dutch laws. I never realized the extent of the situation in Australia. I am shocked children born in Australia depend on the willingness of a clinic and even on the willingness of an individual person. And apparently to be able to have access to their donor's information, children depend on the coincidence of the state they happen to be born.

Not just the Dutch children have the basic right to this excellent situation the Dutch government has created. Also children in Australia, New Zealand, Italy and anywhere should be given the basic right of gaining knowledge about where they come from which is so important to their existence.

I am on the other side of the world. It is only a few hours after closing. This subject is so very important for all our children, please, for their concern, take this submission into consideration.