

Submission to the Constitutional Affairs References Committee Inquiry in to the past and present practices of Donor Conception.

We are a young family with two children conceived through using donor conception. Our children are now 8 and 5 years old. We have been open and honest with them about their origins; however, find it hard to explain why we can't tell them more about their donor.

We currently have this little bit of information:

Brown hair, 183cm tall, fair complexion, student, born 1973, slim build. Plus that they have two half siblings somewhere. That's it!

This was given to us initially when selecting the donor. (10 years ago) Since this time we have contacted the clinic to try and seek further contact/ information about him. Despite the clinics efforts they have not been able to do so. Our greatest fear is that those records could be lost forever! It is both disappointing and frustrating.

We would ask that this information be made available to our children via a register so they can have the right to know their origins, half siblings and family background. As a family we find it very unfair that even adopted children have a right to this information however our children do not. As it stands currently they will have no idea if they were happen to meet a half-sibling, no idea if there is a medical condition we won't know about, no idea about one-half of themselves.

My son has Aspergers and at the age of eight is already questioning his identity and place in the world, we have worked hard to make him feel comfortable within his space on the autism spectrum, however this feels incomplete without further details about his biological information.

Our family is truly a blessing and we would not change a single thing about our two gorgeous kids. We know as our children grow and change we will be expecting more questions and want to be able to answer them in a positive and informed way.

We ask you to help them have the opportunity to further explore their identity if they choose to do so.

Thank You.