

ANSWERS TO INQUIRY INTO DONOR CONCEPTION IN AUSTRALIA QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

Hansard Page: 40

CROSSIN—I see. I will leave it there. I think it has been covered by the other questions.

CHAIR—Thank you. A number of areas have been covered but in the time available a few quick questions. Firstly, your best estimate of the number of donor conceived individuals in Australia and the number brought into being each year.

Dr Morris—We do not have numbers on that. It might be that the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare collects that data. We could take it notice to see if there is such a publication.

CHAIR—If you could take it on notice. We have got one estimate of 60,000 from somebody and we need to find that out. If you can either answer it or point us in the direction of where we can obtain that it would be appreciated. Secondly, we have been advised this morning that the majority of donor sperm comes from overseas. Is that your understanding?

Dr Morris—Again, I know no more than what you have been told.

CHAIR—Is that something you could again take on notice and advise us the answer or direct us to where we might be able to obtain that information?

Dr Morris—Yes, Senator.

CHAIR—Thank you.

Answer:

ART units in Australia and New Zealand report data collected as required by Chapter 10 of the ART Guidelines to the National Perinatal Statistics Unit (NPSU) of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW). NPSU collates the data into an annual report. The most recent report covering the year 2008 was released in September. This report and previous reports are available from <http://www.preru.unsw.edu.au/PRERUWeb.nsf/page/Assisted%20Reproduction%20Technology%20Reports>.

NPSU has reported some data relating to donor-conceived children that are summarized in Table 1. This table lists numbers of live births resulting from cycles using donor eggs or donor embryos and from cycles using donor insemination for the years 2002 to 2008.

Only donor insemination cycles carried out in ART clinics are reported to NPSU. Donor insemination cycles carried out in other facilities are not reported to NPSU and consequently the numbers of children born are not available.

Prior to 2002 data were not collected or reported in the same way, therefore it is not possible to provide any more data.

Table 1: Numbers of donor-conceived children reported to NPSU (2002-2008)

	Live births from Egg/embryo recipient cycles*	Live births from donor insemination cycles*	
2008	357	266	
2007	326	275	
2006	354	278	
2005	309	310	
2004	295	307	
2003	394	313	
2002	322	340	
Total	2357	2089	4446

* The NPSU reports do not distinguish between data from Australian and New Zealand clinics, but approximately 10% of reported cycles occurred in New Zealand.

The National Perinatal Statistics Unit does not publish information about the source of donor sperm. That information may be held by individual ART clinics.