

Giselle Newton

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To the Program Manager, Reproductive Technology Unit, Patient Safety & Clinical Quality
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RE: Review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 and the Surrogacy Act 2008

I am a donor conceived (DC) person and I write to express my experiences to be taken into consideration in relation to the matter of access to information by donor conceived people.

I was conceived in 1993 with the use of donor sperm from PIVET clinic in Perth, Western Australia. My Mum was working at Darwin Public Hospital when my parents found out that my father was infertile. They decided to try to have a child using donor sperm. Luckily for my parents, at the time there was a free service provided at the public hospital in Darwin and they were able to fall pregnant with me. I was born in NSW on January 3, 1994.

Throughout my childhood they indicated to me that my conception was unusual and by the age of around 10 they told me the full story. I have always been thankful that they were honest with me. I am unaware of how many children were conceived in other states with donor sperm from Western Australia, however, I think my case provides another dimension to the matter.

I have always been curious about my donor and I believe it is natural for any human to be curious about where they come from. I think that the rights of the child should be protected and that as donor conceived people we should have the right to know our donor's identity. Like donor conceived people in Victoria, I would appreciate the opportunity to learn more about my donor's identity, background and medical history.

I strongly encourage the Western Australian government to mirror the Victorian legislation on this matter. I would be happy to discuss my experiences in further detail.

Regards,



Giselle Newton