

Hello Sonya,

Thank you for your time today.

A few more thoughts, please, on some of the issues surrounding individuals and couples forced to go abroad for egg donation/surrogacy:

1. They lose continuity of care with their local doctors and clinics in Australia (crucial).
2. Their jobs/businesses are disrupted by the need to use paid/unpaid leave. As well as an economic impact, it can impact career advancement through one, repeated or extensive trips.
3. A feeling of escalated anxiety and dis-empowerment through overseas clinic staff not speaking English (often, only the treating doctor might speak English or desired language)- this can make it stressful to discuss appointment bookings/changes, billing, ask further questions about the experience, follow-up etc.
4. Intense feelings of isolation as they undergo the procedure away from their usual support networks.
5. Stress as to uncertainty of medical/ ethical standards adhered to by the clinics and labs involved.
6. The cost of more than "...just paying airfares." In addition to the above, costs involved go beyond airfares (significant in itself), to hotels, accommodation, meals, transfers, car rental etc., and the sheer stress of navigating public transport to/from appointments, whether or not a foreign language is required. In addition, in the cases of secondary infertility, a patient must secure 24/7 childcare for the child/children at home, and of course, endure separation from them for the duration of travel.
7. Crucially, the potential issue that they may not get a donor from their own cultural group, and that medical/psychological screening of same might be more lax than in Australia.

I did mention in our interview the names of the WA fertility clinics which I attended as a donor. I do ask they not be named as part of my experience please.

Any Questions, please don't hesitate.

Thank you,
Alicia Young

ALICIA YOUNG

