

The Program Manager, Reproductive Technology Unit, Patient Safety & Clinical Quality
Clinical Excellence Division, Department of Health
189 Royal Street
Perth, WA 6004

16/03/2018

Re: Review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 (HRT Act)

My name is Myf Cummerford, I am thirty seven, a designer, mother of two small children and a graphic designer. I am also donor conceived and miraculously was able to connect with my biological father thanks to a newspaper article fourteen years ago.

Despite being a reserved and private person, the strength of my need to find out more about myself and my parentage was such that (in the absence of an alternative) I was compelled to expose myself and my situation to the nation in the media. Whilst my action did result in the remarkable outcome of making contact with my donor I felt considerable anxiety in sharing such intimate details about myself and my family with the world. My Dad's infertility was revealed and I had innumerable personal questions and criticisms to answer from friends and strangers. My story became the ultimate lure for other donor conceived people to participate in media in the hope that they might have the same success. It makes me incredibly disappointed and frustrated that donor conceived people still have to expose themselves and their stories to a largely ignorant and insensitive public because the medical profession and successive governments have failed to implement policies and legislation to support them and facilitate the release of such fundamentally important information.

I have long been an advocate for donor conceived people and have participated in numerous law reform and inquiries over many years. I also co-administrate the largest online support group for Australian donor conceived people. I also live in Victoria, the first state in the world to legislate to retrospectively permit donor conceived people access to identifying information about their donor. As a result of this ground breaking legislation I was also very fortunate to be able to make contact with one of my donor conceived sisters, we have a lot in common and I am loving getting to know her. I am so very grateful that donor conceived people in my state now have the choice to find out more about their biological family members should they wish to do so.

I hope that Western Australia will follow Victoria's lead in legislating to facilitate access to identifying information about donors for donor conceived people and the services required to support the release of that information.

Kind Regards

Myfanwy Cummerford