



SHOULD ALL DONOR CONCEIVED ADULTS BE ABLE TO IDENTIFY THEIR DONORS?

MEDIA RELEASE
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This is to be one of the questions at the centre of a new Inquiry by the Legislative Assembly Committee on Law and Safety, which will examine issues around the current management of donor information in New South Wales.

Under current legislation only those people conceived after 2010 have the right to access information about their donor, as donations made before this date did not have to be recorded on a central register. This is an extremely sensitive issue which raises many questions around the rights of people wanting to trace their biological parentage as well as the rights of the donors who may wish to remain anonymous.

The Inquiry will explore a range of questions including whether retrospective access to information should be granted; what issues this would likely raise with individuals and donors; what support should be provided; and how donor information should be managed and by whom.

The Committee is currently seeking submissions and all interested parties are encouraged to add their voice to the discussion. Chair of the Committee, Mr John Barilaro MP, acknowledged that "donor conceived people have the prevailing right to know the identity of the person who contributed to their biological makeup.

"This inquiry will examine some issues which arose during the Committee's last inquiry into whether donor details should be included on the register of births, with a particular focus on allowing retrospective access to information about donors and the administrative and support mechanisms that are needed to support those affected by donor conception."

The closing date for submissions is 15 February, 2013. An issues paper - *Managing information related to donor conception* - has been drafted to provide those wishing to make a submission with relevant background information and a list of questions that the Committee is considering.

This and other information may be found on the Committee's website at www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandsafety. Submissions may be emailed to lawsafety@parliament.nsw.gov.au or mailed to: The Chair, Committee on Law and Safety, Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000. Details of the subsequent hearing will also be published on the internet.

-ENDS-

For further comment please contact Mr John Barilaro MP on 02 6299 4899