



## Considering egg donation?

This fact sheet provides information for women thinking about egg donation. Helping people to have a family is a significant commitment that requires careful consideration. Take time to think and talk about it with your partner / relatives so that you understand what egg donation means for you, your family and the families that receive your donation.

### Access to information

You must consent to the release of your identifying information (name and date of birth) to become an egg donor. A person born as a result of your donation can request this information when they reach 16 years of age.

The clinic is required by law to provide your details to the Department of Health. This information is recorded in a secure computer database called the Reproductive Technology Registers, which can only be accessed by specially appointed officers.

You can choose to provide more information about yourself by joining the Voluntary Register ([voluntaryregister.health.wa.gov.au](http://voluntaryregister.health.wa.gov.au)) when a child is born as a result of your donation. Openness to additional information can be valuable to people who are donor-conceived. There are a number of options that you may wish to consider. Additional information can be found in [fact sheet 7 - Access to Information](#).

### What does donation involve?

In Western Australia (WA) you must be at least 18 years of age to become an egg donor. Fertility clinics in WA will not usually accept women over 35 years old, however this can be different for each fertility clinic. By law you cannot be paid to donate your eggs. The clinic can only offer you reasonable expenses that are associated with your donation.

### Donation programmes

Most fertility clinics have a donor coordinator, who is often the first point of contact for people who are thinking about egg donation. A list of clinics is available on the Reproductive Technology Council website ([rtc.org.au](http://rtc.org.au)).

### Unknown and known donors

Unknown donors are volunteers who provide donations to the clinic and are unknown to the people who use their donation. People sometimes bring their own donor to the clinic. This might be a relative or friend. This is termed known donation as the donor and recipient are known to each other. There are special requirements for known donation due to the close relationship (see [fact sheet 8 - Counselling](#)).

### Counselling

You and your partner (if any) will see an approved counsellor who will help you think through the possible implications and consequences of becoming an egg donor. This is so you can make an informed and carefully considered decision. [Fact sheet 8 - Counselling](#) - outlines the main issues you may discuss with the counsellor.

## Health requirements

A donor profile is created from your physical description, health and background such as education, hobbies and interests (see [fact sheet 5 - Donor Profile Example](#)). This helps people decide which donor to choose. You also need to meet certain conditions to become an egg donor. This includes a medical check-up, completing a questionnaire (see fact sheet 6 - Lifestyle Questionnaire Example) and screening tests for:

- blood group
- human immunodeficiency virus (HIV)
- human T-lymphotropic virus (HTLV)
- hepatitis B and C
- sexually transmitted infections (STIs)
- genetic conditions (i.e. cystic fibrosis)

If you are accepted into the donor program, you will attend the clinic to begin treatment that stimulates the development of eggs. Your clinic will explain the risks and side-effects of this treatment and the egg collection procedure.

The eggs are fertilised immediately after collection and the resulting embryos are then frozen and not used (quarantined) until you have had further blood tests six months after the donation. This ensures you are free from any infection that could be passed on through your donation. In some circumstances, a fresh embryo transfer can be undertaken. Clinic staff will advise on the indications for this procedure and must explain the potential risk of transmission of infection from your donation.

It is important to understand that not everyone is accepted into a donor programme. The fertility clinic will discuss the reasons with you.

## Your rights and responsibilities

If your donation to the fertility clinic results in the birth of a child, the law explicitly states that the woman who gives birth to the child and her partner (if any) are the parents of the child. You have no legal or financial rights or responsibilities and your name will not be listed on the birth certificate. You are required to disclose information about any known genetic or medical conditions you have. There may be serious legal consequences if you fail to disclose this information.

You are entitled to know the gender, year of birth, number of families and number of children born from your donation. Your fertility clinic can provide you with this information.

- Your donation can help up to five families have children (not including your own).
- There is no limit to the number of children in each family.
- You must inform the clinic of any other donations (in Australia and overseas).
- You can direct the clinic to provide your donation under certain conditions.
- You can change your consent up until the time your donation is used.
- In WA, a clinic must not knowingly use your donation after your death.

## Development of a serious medical condition

If you or a close relative develops a serious medical condition, you need to consider the possible implications for any child born as a result of your donation. You should discuss this with your doctor, and the clinic where you donated, to decide the best course of action.

## How can I donate?

Contact a licensed fertility clinic to find out more about egg donation. A list of clinics is available on the Reproductive Technology Council website ([rtc.org.au](http://rtc.org.au)).