

Donation of Sperm, Eggs and Embryos

This fact sheet provides information for people who are thinking about donating their sperm, eggs or embryos. 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 donation means for you, your family, and families that receive 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 donation. A list of clinics is available on the [Reproductive Technology Council](#) website.

In Western Australia (WA) you must be at least 18 years of age to become a donor. By law you cannot be paid for your donation. The clinic can only offer you reasonable expenses that are associated with your donation.

Counselling

You and your partner (if any) will see a counsellor who will help you think through the possible implications and consequences of becoming a donor. This is so you can make an informed and carefully considered decision.

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 the person/s who receive the donation (recipient/s) are known to each other. There are special counselling requirements for known donation.

Health requirements

A donor profile is created from your physical description, health and background such as education, hobbies and interests (see [Donor Profile Example](#)). This helps people decide which donor to choose.

In order for your donation to be made available the clinic will need to ensure that it is safe to do so. This includes a medical check-up and screening tests such as:

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

The clinic will discuss the reasons with you if you are not accepted into a donor program.

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 fertility clinic where you made the donation, to decide the best course of action.

Access to information

You must consent to the release of your identifying information to become a donor. A person born as a result of your donation can request this information when they reach 16 years of age.

The fertility clinic is required by law to provide your details to the Western Australian Department of Health.

How can I donate?

Contact a licensed fertility clinic to find out more about donation. A list of clinics is available on the [Reproductive Technology Council](#) website.

Additional resources

[Reproductive Technology Council Donor-Assisted Conception Fact Sheets](#)

[Western Australian Licenced Fertility Clinics](#)

[Australian Donor Conception Network](#)

[Victorian Assisted Reproduction Treatment Authority](#)