



Donor-assisted conception

This fact sheet provides information for people who are thinking about treatment using donated sperm, eggs or embryos (donor-assisted conception) as a way of having a family.

Access to treatment

People need access to donor-assisted conception for different reasons. This may be the only option for people with a medical condition, genetic condition or a specific fertility issue. There are a number of treatment options that may be available depending on individual circumstances:

- Artificial insemination involves placing donor sperm into the person's genital tract or womb.
- In vitro fertilisation (IVF) involves fertilising the egg (ovum) outside the body and placing the resulting embryo into the womb.

Donation programs

Most fertility clinics have a donor coordinator who is often the first point of contact. A list of clinics is available on the [Reproductive Technology Council website](#)

Donors complete a lifestyle questionnaire and undergo screening to check their health. The clinic provides donor profiles as part of the treatment plan. A [donor profile](#) includes a description of the donor's physical appearance, health and personal background.

Your clinic is required to ensure that the risk of transmission of infections and genetic conditions is minimised.

The fertility clinic is also required to provide information about the law relating to donor-assisted conception. This is called the [Artificial Conception Act 1985](#). This makes clear that a donor is legally not a parent of any child that is born as a result of their donation. The person(s) who consent to the donor-conception procedure are the legal parent(s).

Some complex issues can arise when people are thinking about treatment options. People who are considering donor-assisted conception are required to undergo [counselling](#).

People who have children by donor-assisted conception are encouraged to tell their children early and often about their origins (open disclosure). In the past, this was often kept secret and it is now known that this may cause distress to everyone involved. The timing of when to tell children about their origins will vary from family to family.

Additional resources

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

[Artificial Conception Act 1985](#)

[Australian Donor Conception Network](#)

[Victorian Assisted Reproduction Authority Donor Conception](#)