

Access to information

This fact sheet describes the ways that different types of information may be accessed by donor-conceived people, parents of children who are donor-conceived, and donors. The process for access to information depends on when a person was conceived, the type of information requested, and the consent of the people involved.

Reproductive Technology Registers

Fertility clinics are required by law to provide your details to the Department of Health, Western Australia (WA). This information is recorded in a secure computer database called the Reproductive Technology Registers, which can only be accessed by specially appointed officers.

The type of information that is recorded includes non-identifying and identifying information.

Non-identifying information

Non-identifying information about a donor includes:

- donor code
- physical description
- marital status
- education and occupation
- ethnic background
- personal interests and hobbies
- health and family history
- optional personal statement

Identifying information

Identifying information includes the name and date of birth of donors and people who have had donor-assisted conception treatment.

Donor-conceived person (conceived on or after 1 December 2004)

When a person conceived with the assistance of a donor on or after 1 December 2004 reaches 16 years of age, they have a legal right to identifying information about their donor. This information, which is provided to the Department of Health by clinics licensed in WA, can only be released after the donor-conceived person has undertaken counselling.

Parents of a donor-conceived child

The law also changed on 1 December 2004 to permit sharing of identifying information where children are under 16 years of age. Parents may consent on their own behalf and on behalf of their children to sharing of identifying information. Everyone involved must give their consent and the release of information must not disclose the identity of any person who has not given consent. Counselling must be undertaken before this information can be released.

Donor-conceived people (conceived before 1 December 2004)

The changes to the law on 1 December 2004 did not have any force on events in the past. This means that for people who were conceived through donor-assisted conception before this time have no automatic right of access to identifying information.

The records from donor-conception treatment before 1993 are often incomplete as the practices were very different and parents were not encouraged to 'tell'. Therefore, there may be occasions when no information will be found.

Information from clinics

Donors, donor-conceived persons, and parents of a donor-conceived child may ask the clinic for non-identifying information about the number of families created, the number of children born, their gender and year of birth.

Voluntary information sharing

Donor Conception Information Service (DCIS) is a WA service for people who are donor-conceived, parents of donor-conceived children and their donors. Support and intermediary services are available free of charge for voluntary information sharing and disclosure of identifying information.

Past donors are encouraged to join DCIS so that a donor-conceived person may know more about their genetic relatives and/or could have access to identifying information. The donor decides the level of information that is provided.

Additional resources

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

[Western Australian Licensed Fertility Clinics](#)

[Donor Conception Information Service](#)