

Victorian Law Reform Committee.
Sperm Donation

I was a medical student in the 1970s in Melbourne and during a lecture we were asked to please consider donating sperm for infertile couples as there was a lack of donors at the time, a cause of unhappiness.

A small dollar amount possibly \$10 was part of the deal, but the idea really was that there were people that needed our help.

I enquired about this and filled in a very small form, was counselled for a brief time (this was a long time ago!) and made aware that my donation would be forever confidential and have no effect on my future life.

I have now married and divorced. I have three adolescent children.

Prof De Kretser wrote to me and suggested I contact him about a "project". This was a year ago. I have since found out about 5 successful donations. One of them had gone to very great lengths to contact their donor. I agreed to follow up this contact and have since met her and got to know her well.

This has been a bizarre experience for me. At first I was overwhelmed and felt saddened, maybe by the loss of a person, not knowing or being around this person as she lived her life.

I was given a pamphlet about the whole experience. I noted there was 50 pages in it and NOTHING about the experience of being a donor.

It has been very good to know the person and we get on very well and have a lot of surprising connections and similar interests. My children are very positive and have enjoyed knowing her.

Opinions vary on what to do now with the law. I think pre 1988 Donors have a complete right to confidentiality.

Where donor children wish I think any traceable donors should be contacted as I was: the donor can decide whether to respond and make contact. I hope they all do, but it is their call I believe.