



Rainbow Families Council

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www.rainbowfamilies.org.au
Association Reg. No. A0050047N

Rainbow Families Council Submission - Inquiry into Access by Donor-Conceived People to Information About Donors.

Friday 6 August 2010

Dear Executive Officer,

Rainbow Families Council makes the following submission to the Victorian Parliament Law Reform Committee *Inquiry into Access by Donor-Conceived People to Information About Donors*.

Introducing Rainbow Families Council

Rainbow Families Council is a volunteer community organisation advocating for same-sex parented families in Victoria. Established in 2006, the Council brings together lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans and intersex families, parenting support groups and prospective parents.

The Council's work includes sharing information and resources to support families, children and prospective parents; working for social and legal recognition for our children and families; speaking out about the diverse realities of our lives; representing the best interests and rights of children living in rainbow families, parents and prospective parents to government and non-government bodies; and encouraging rainbow families to be visible and proud. The Council currently has over 250 financial members, is managed by an annually elected committee and administers a community website www.rainbowfamilies.org.au.

The term "rainbow families" is used to describe families where there are one or more parents who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender. Another commonly used term is "same-sex parents".

Rainbow Families Council supports the efforts of those donor-conceived people who are seeking access to information about donors who donated prior to July 1 1988. The Council also supports the introduction of the Inquiry and believes that this issue is of importance to many donor-conceived people.

Further Rainbow Families Council believes that:

- The best interests and the rights of the child are paramount in any deliberations on the matter of access to identifying information about their donors and their donor-conceived siblings, regardless of the date that the donation was made;
- Regardless of the date that a donation was made, a donor-conceived person should be given access to identifying information about their donor under the following circumstances:
 - Provision of adequate and useful counselling about the implications of accessing identifying information to the donor-conceived person and their family prior to contact with a donor being made, including the implication of discovering donor-conceived siblings.
 - Provision of appropriate counselling arranged for the donor where possible, especially donors who donated prior to 1988, specifically about the implications of being identified, and the implications for their own families if any.
 - Clarification of any legal issues related to the identification of donors.
- Clarification of any possible implications under the Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006 is very important.

Rainbow Families Council is happy to respond to any further questions the Law Reform Committee regarding the work of the Council or our submission to the Inquiry.

Yours sincerely,

Eilis Hughes & Rebecca Ford

Co-convenors

Rainbow Families Council

www.rainbowfamilies.org.au