

29 July 2011

Mr. Clem Newton–Brown  
Chair  
Law Reform Committee  
Parliament of Victoria  
Spring Street  
East Melbourne VIC 3002

Dear Mr. Clem Newton–Brown

**Re: Inquiry into access to donor information**

Thank you for your letter June 30th 2011.

I am pleased to be able to make a brief submission on this issue.

I was the Director Of the Donor Insemination Clinic at Prince Henry’s Hospital from 1978 till its closure in 1998. During this period I supervised about 1500 couples being treated with donor sperm.

I was also responsible for the Monash DI service from 1983 till 2007. I estimate that also involved a similar number of couples.

Whilst I support the rights of donor offspring to try and access their donor if they desire, we have to remember that the clinicians involved in recruiting donors prior to 1998 had assured the donors that identifying information about them would NOT be released.

I believe that the VLRC’s recommendation 97 was correct, that this anonymity should NOT be removed RETROSPECTIVELY, but that contact should be facilitated by an appropriate agency with skilled staff who can discretely approach the donors and seek their permission.

Retrospectively removing the anonymity makes liars of the clinicians who recruited these donors, including such eminent clinicians as Professors Carl Wood, David deKretser, John Leeton, Doug Lording, Gordon Baker, Mr. Ian Johnston, and myself.

**Whilst it is recorded in the Interim Report that “Monash IVF supported retrospective access” Submission 26,3 it must be brought to the Committee’s notice that this submission was written by a counsellor, who was not involved in the program before 1998, expressing her personal opinion and that the clinicians who was involved (only I am left as Professor Wood and Leeton have retired), were not consulted about the submission.**

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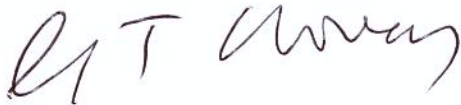
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*I respectfully request the Inquiry not to RETROSPECTIVELY remove anonymity prior to 1998, but to endorse the VLRC's 2007 Report, recommendation 97, to voluntarily facilitate access as required with appropriate counselling and the donors consent.*

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. Kovacs'.

**Professor Gab Kovacs AM**  
International Medical Director  
Monash IVF

cc. The Executive Officer, Law Reform Committee  
cc. Mr. James Thiedeman, CEO Monash IVF