

- > Legal implications of the use of donated reproductive material
- > Whether a child may seek this information in the future.

COUNSELLING.

These and other issues are discussed with an approved counsellor at the clinic prior to donation.

MORE INFORMATION.

If you are interested in obtaining more information about donation of gametes, please contact the Canberra Fertility Centre on 02 6282 5458.



CANBERRA FERTILITY CENTRE

GAMETE DONATION THE FACTS

Canberra Fertility Centre

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The decision to donate to help an infertile person or couple is a serious one and may have life-long consequences. Your doctor or counsellor at Canberra Fertility Centre will provide information on the medical aspects and will explore the social and emotional issues associated with your decision.

Donors, recipients and individuals all have legal rights and responsibilities.

SPERM, EGG AND EMBRYO DONATION:

The use of donor gametes (eggs, sperm and embryos) is designed to help recipients have a child when one or both partners have a form of infertility and are unable to conceive on their own.

WHO CAN BECOME A SPERM DONOR?

Any healthy male aged between 21 and 40 years may be considered as a possible donor.

WHO CAN BECOME AN EGG DONOR?

Any healthy female between 21 and 35 years, who has had children of her own, may be considered as a possible donor.

WHO CAN BECOME AN EMBRYO DONOR?

Extra embryos may result from completed IVF treatment. These embryos may be considered suitable for donation.

HOW ARE DONORS SCREENED?

Each potential donor is thoroughly screened by Canberra Fertility Centre in order to minimize the risks of transmitting infectious diseases or inherited disorders. All donors are assessed medically by one of the Canberra Fertility Centre doctors. Donors and their partners (if applicable) are counselled regarding the ramifications of donation.

ARE DONORS PAID FOR DONATIONS?

Donations of gametes in Australia must be altruistic. No payments can be received for donation of gametes; however, there are no out-of-pocket costs for any donors.

CONFIDENTIALITY AND THE ACCESS OF IDENTIFYING INFORMATION.

Donations can be made anonymously BUT a donor must consent to having identifying details accessible to any donor conceived child at the age of 18, upon request.

These details are: full name, address and date of birth. (See NHMRC "Ethical guidelines on the use of assisted reproductive technology in clinical practice and research", June 2007 – www.nrmrc.gov.au)

Other information about the donor and the outcomes of the treatment is stored in clinic records. Strict practices apply to the protection of confidentiality.

Non-identifying information made available to the recipients includes the donor's physical characteristics, family background, level of education, marital status, number of children in own family, area of occupation, blood group, interests, hobbies and a summarized personal health history.

The donor may wish to provide further information on a social history form which may be passed on to recipients.

LEGAL RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES.

Your legal rights and responsibilities in the ACT are covered by the Parentage Act 2004. This states that the domestic partner of the recipient is presumed to be a parent of any child born from the donation of gametes or embryos. The donor is conclusively presumed not to be a parent (mother or father) of any child born as a result of pregnancy. Hence the donor has no rights in relation to the child and no responsibilities, even if the donor is known to the recipient.

CONSENT.

There are various consent provisions which you must be aware of. These relate to:

- > Withdrawal of consent.
- > The requirement of your spouse/partner to consent (if you have one).
- > What happens in the event of death.
- > Other matters.

These will be covered in your counselling sessions and they will also be covered in the consent forms you sign.

It is important you understand the legal and moral implications of your decision, even if you already know the person.

CONCERNS.

A number of issues may arise from donating gametes, which you may need to consider. These include:

- > Becoming a genetic parent of children you may never know
- > Ethical or religious concerns