

I'm the parent of a donor-conceived child

Understanding the Donor Conception Information Register

The Queensland Donor Conception Information Register (the register) is designed to help donor-conceived people better understand their genetic history, identity, and health information.

The register may also help families access information about donors, learn about donor-conceived siblings, and better understand genetic and medical history.

Why has the register been established?

In the past, many parents were advised not to tell their children they were donor conceived, and donors were promised anonymity.

Over time, research and lived experience have shown that many donor-conceived people value access to information about their genetic history, identity, family connections and medical history.

The register has been established to support greater transparency, informed choice, and access to this important information.

To ensure you and your child can access information from the register to support their identity, health and wellbeing, it is important that you notify your fertility provider about the birth of your child (including their name and date of birth) so this information can be submitted to the register.

What does this mean for my family?

The register enables donor-conceived people aged 16 or older to apply for information about their donor and donor-conceived siblings.

You may also be able to apply for certain information relating to your donor-conceived child.

What information can my child access?

From the age of 16, donor-conceived people conceived in Queensland can access information about their donor and donor-conceived siblings.

The information they can receive will depend on the information held in the register, whether the other person is a donor or donor-conceived sibling

and, for some information, the other person's consent. Some older records may be incomplete or unavailable, depending on the information originally collected and retained by fertility clinics.

Information about the donor

This may include their:

- name
- date of birth
- place of birth
- ethnicity and physical characteristics
- relevant medical history
- hobbies, interests or other profile information recorded at the time of donation
- contact email address (with their consent).

Information about donor-conceived siblings

This may include their:

- name (with their consent)
- date of birth (with their consent)
- sex and year of birth
- contact email address (with their consent).

It may also include the number of donor-conceived siblings recorded in the register.

What information can I access?

You may access information in the register about your donor-conceived child's donor and donor-conceived siblings, subject to information availability and, for some information, the other person's consent.

Information about your child's donor

This may include their:

- name (with the donor's consent)
- date of birth (with the donor's consent)
- place of birth
- ethnicity and physical characteristics
- relevant medical history
- hobbies, interests or other profile information recorded at the time of donation
- contact email address (with their consent).

Information about your child's donor-conceived siblings

This may include their:

- name (with their consent)
- date of birth (with their consent)
- the sex and year of birth of your child's donor-conceived siblings
- the number of donor-conceived siblings recorded
- contact email address (with their consent).

Government website to peer support groups that support parents.

It is important to note that changes to the law mean that some people may find out they are donor conceived when they receive their birth certificate from the Registry of Births, Deaths and Marriages (RBDM).

When a donor-conceived person over 16 years applies for a copy of their birth certificate, RBDM must now also issue an extra piece of paper, known as an addendum, with their certificate. The addendum links the person to the information held about them on the register.

Applicants to the register will be able to access specialist counselling to support them through the process. This service is still being established, and applicants will be advised once it is available.

Looking for more information?

Visit: www.qld.gov.au/RBDMdonorRegister

Email: DCIRegister@justice.qld.gov.au

What information can I provide to the register?

When you apply to the register, you may also share additional information about you, your contact email address if you're open to contact, and who you're open to contacting you. For example, you may choose to allow the register to share your contact details with your child's donor, donor-conceived siblings that are 16 years or older, or the parents of your child's donor-conceived siblings.

What if my child doesn't know they are donor conceived?

Every family's experience is different. Conversations about donor conception can feel emotional, complex, or uncertain for some parents. You can find links on the Queensland