



## Our vision

We are a self-help voluntary network of families created with the help of Donated sperm, eggs or embryos;  
Supporting couples and individuals seeking to create a family this way.

Supporting and guiding parents in the issues they face raising children who have been donor conceived.

Help and support the donor conceived with their queries.

Provide links to materials and resources.

The NZ Donor Conception Network is an autonomous group operated by and within FertilityNZ.

Membership of the NZ Donor Conception Network through Fertility NZ entitles members to the full range of services offered by Fertility NZ.



## NZ Donor Conception Network

PO Box 12049  
Beckenham  
Christchurch 8242  
[www.fertilitynz.org.nz](http://www.fertilitynz.org.nz)

Phone: 03 332 7790  
Freephone: 0800 333 306

Email  
[contact.us@fertilitynz.org.nz](mailto:contact.us@fertilitynz.org.nz)

## NZ Donor Conception Network



Is a network for parents and people conceived through donated eggs, sperm or embryos and people contemplating or undergoing treatment and interested individuals.

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# About Us

## Using Donor Sperm and Donor Eggs

It can be very distressing for people to discover they require donated sperm or eggs if they are to achieve a pregnancy and form a family. Couples may need to work with their counsellor to deal with the grief involved before they begin their treatment. Single women and lesbian couples who have decided to proceed with donor sperm treatment have generally made a considered decision and feel fortunate to have this opportunity. Children of donor families have a right to know about their genetic origins. It is important that the recipients have thought through all aspects so they can feel confident about their decision and enjoy their children.

## Parenting and Donor Conception

Issues around disclosing the truth about their conception to children can be challenging for many parents. The Donor Conception Network strongly recommends to parents the importance of telling children about their origins.

### Why telling is important:

Our genetic identity is part of our history - it is the beginning of our life story. Knowing our history helps us to understand who we are. Secrecy is not in the best interests of the child. Experience tells us that knowing of donor origins is not a problem in itself.

The circumstances in which disclosure or discovery occurs can, however, cause problems. We also know that the absence of such information can damage self-esteem. If your child is told by somebody else or accidentally finds out, they may feel a sense of betrayal. Openness from a very early age is the best route to confidence in the parenting role and to a well bonded family.

## Donor Offspring

Donor offspring, as they reach their teens or later in life, may have issues of identity to resolve. If they have grown up always knowing about these origins, these issues are likely to be different when compared to those who find out relatively late.

Some donor offspring may wish to trace other donor offspring who shared the same donor. Likewise, donor offspring may seek information about donors, ranging from nonidentifying information to the donor's identifying details, and possible contact.

Fertility clinics are able to provide counseling support if required.

## Membership Benefits

### □ Support

The Donor Conception Network provides members with the opportunity to network and share experiences—wherever you are in the country, contact with others can be a phone call or an email away. Members can participate in small contact groups, internet chatroom, social gatherings.

As a support group we are able to help each other in making the decision to use a donor, when attending a clinic programme, and for those that have children, the opportunity to contact or meet other donor gamete families.

As children get older, they sometimes feel they would like to talk to other children of donor conceived families as well. By becoming a member of the Donor Conception Network, children can meet and grow up knowing other children who were conceived in the same way and have the opportunity to discuss any issues they may have with their peers.

### □ Information

The Donor Conception Network provides members with objective, up to date and practical information. Whether you are a potential egg or sperm recipient, parent, have donor offspring children, or are donor offspring yourself, knowing about, and understanding your situation can assist you in dealing with whatever circumstances arise.

Members have access to:

- Information evenings
- Interactive website
- National magazine and newsletter

### □ Advocacy

The Donor Conception Network works on behalf of all in the Donor Conception community to represent members' interests. For example, it successfully lobbied for the creation of a voluntary register for connecting donor offspring with siblings and donors. The Network makes submissions on matters relevant to donor conception, and through its relationship with fertilityNZ is able to liaise with fertility clinics to ensure quality programmes for consumers of fertility clinic services.

