

MEDIA RELEASE

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Sperm Banks and Donor Conception: Should There be Limits?

An Australian mother's concerns that her 5 children fathered by a sperm donor, could find themselves in "accidental incest," show that a decades-long social experiment with donor conception, should now be examined based on its results.

She'd previously revealed how, after meeting the parents of another child at daycare and becoming friends... that they too had used the same donor... Her children are now 19, 17, 13, nine and six... She found her children's biological father had donated 239 times in four years... (Daily Mail, 7/11/2023).

This Mum is now concerned her children will have to do background checks on every potential romantic partner to ensure they are not biologically related. Such procedures impose unjustified burdens on the children conceived in this manner. But there's more:

Young adults conceived through sperm donation are hurting more, are more confused, and feel more isolated from their families. They fare worse than their peers raised by biological parents on important outcomes such as depression, delinquency and substance abuse. Nearly two-thirds agree, "My sperm donor is half of who I am." Young adults conceived through sperm donation (or "donor offspring") experience profound struggles with their origins and identities. (Marquadt, E et al., "My Daddy's name is Donor:" a new study of young adults conceived through sperm donation, Institute for American Values, 2010, p 5)

Andrew McColl (Qld Director, FamilyVoice) recommends that:

Sperm donated by any one man should only be used by one family. This is necessary to prevent the intentional conception of donor siblings who would be raised apart from one another. Furthermore, all donor conceived children from age 18, or earlier with the agreement of their legal parents, should be entitled to access full identifying information about their genetic parents. The rights of existing donor conceived children to know their full biological and genetic heritage should be upheld.

Further details:

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