

R Grayson

Whom it may concern,

My name is R Grayson and I am a Single Mother by Choice (SMC) a child, 11 months old.

Child was conceived via Assisted Reproduction Technology using donor sperm.

I decided to go down the SMC route after being told I was in early menopause at 32. It was pretty much a now or never situation. I didn't feel comfortable waiting for 'Mr Right' and having my view clouded by my increasing infertility and ending up in a complicated relationship for the sake of having a baby.

SMCs are the fastest growing user group of Australian fertility clinics and are now the biggest users of donated sperm in Australia.

The Family Law Act does not recognise SMCs at all, which creates legal uncertainty for me and my child.

Unlike for lesbian and heterosexual couples who have children with the use of donor sperm, the Act does not state that a donor is not a legal parent (see section 60H of the Family Law Act).

I'm concerned by this omission because it means the legal status of my sperm donor is unknown. The law creates uncertainty for me, my family and an essentially child. It also treats children conceived by SMCs differently than children conceived by same-sex or heterosexual couples.

SMCs are omitted from the Family Law Act altogether, creating enormous uncertainty around parentage.

I strongly believe donors to SMCs need to be addressed, as they have been to couples - a donor is not a legal parent. Myself and other SMCs need to be given the same rights as couples who have utilised ART using donor sperm.

Thankyou for your time and consideration.

R Grayson