

## Monash IVF: Media Statement

As a leading fertility provider, Monash IVF has run a donor program since the 1980s and we take great pride in helping families to conceive through sperm, egg and embryo donations.

Laws and regulations relating to donor conception have evolved over 40-plus years. Monash IVF has done its utmost to meet all its legal and regulatory obligations.

Over that time, and even beyond what the law requires, we have also put in place our own robust policies and processes to protect the health and wellbeing of our donors, donor recipients and donor conceived people.

A long-standing practice of ours has been the requirement for all our donors and recipients to agree to provide us with accurate personal and medical information. With respect to donors, we review this information and determine whether the individual is suitable to enter our donor program. As well as medical screening and counselling, genetic testing is offered to all donors and recipients and is highly recommended. We also require them to update us on any new developments relating to their health in the future.

While Monash IVF cannot comment on specific individual cases due to privacy laws, we understand the unique challenges and needs that members of the donor community and those seeking IVF treatment can face, and we strive to support them with respect and care.

We treat any new health concerns raised by our donors, our recipients or donor-conceived people seriously and sensitively.

Monash IVF's actions in response to such concerns must comply with our legislative obligations. We are bound by laws that only permit disclosure of medical information to donor recipient parents and their donor conceived children in certain circumstances, such as to save someone's life.

In determining whether this new health information is life-threatening or poses a sufficiently serious risk to permit disclosure, we conduct a comprehensive risk assessment. This assessment is done by our multi-disciplinary team of experts, including fertility specialists, geneticists and psychologists. Where necessary, we also consult with external experts, including oncologists and psychiatrists.

The decision to contact donor parents and donor conceived people about new medical information regarding a donor, and the extent of that contact, is commensurate with the risk as determined by clinical experts. We would also consider whether the recipient would be able to do anything to mitigate the risk, if made aware of the issue.

Monash IVF acknowledges the distress that can be caused when a donor conceived child receives information about health concerns relating to their donor or their donor-conceived siblings that may impact them. Our counselling team is available to provide ongoing support.

Where appropriate, Monash IVF may facilitate referral to support organisations or to medical specialists to allow a donor conceived person the opportunity to receive personalised care.