

## Legislation

Current NSW legislation has been in force since January 2010. In addition to donors being identifiable (i.e. when the child reaches 18 years and if desired can be given contact details for the donor) a donor register is also being kept.

Please review the relevant brochures at the bottom of the page at:

[www.health.nsw.gov.au/hospitals/phc/art.asp](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/hospitals/phc/art.asp)

These brochures provide information on the following topics:

- Information for parents
- Information for donors
- Information for donor conceived individuals
- Information on the Central donor register in NSW

Under section 14 of the NSW Status of Children Act 1996, a semen donor is presumed not to be the legal father of any child born as a result of assisted reproduction using donor semen. This means that the donor will generally not be liable under the laws governing child support, inheritance and related issues. In most cases, the legal parents of the child will be the birth mother and her male partner, if she has one.

- If you wish to obtain further information about this or any other legal issue associated with your donation, please seek legal advice.



Assisted Conception Clinic

### CLINIC HOURS

Monday to Friday - 8.00am to 4.30pm

Saturday - 9.00am to 1.00pm

All appointments

02 9389 1177

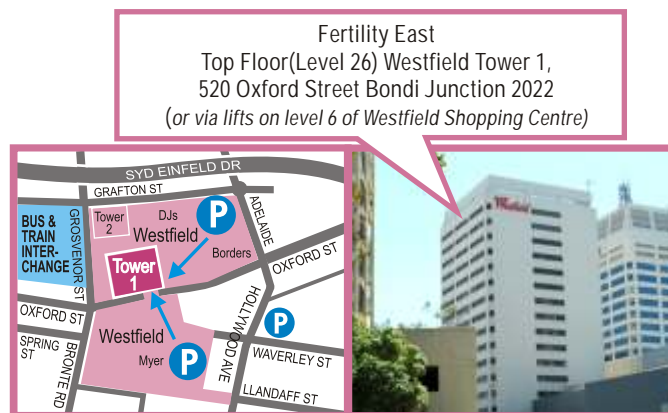
### BLOOD COLLECTION HOURS

Monday to Friday - 8.00am to 9.30am

Saturday - 9.00am to 9.30am

No appointments necessary

Results Mon-Fri between 2pm and 3pm



Fertility East  
Top Floor (Level 26) Westfield Tower 1,  
520 Oxford Street Bondi Junction 2022  
(or via lifts on level 6 of Westfield Shopping Centre)

- 1 minute walk from Bondi Junction Bus Terminal and Train Station
- 2hr free parking in Westfield

*Our success is your baby*

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Fertility Australia Pty Ltd A/T/F The Fertility Australia Trust  
ABN 22 482 157 084

Sperm Donation ...The Facts



Assisted Conception Clinic

## Sperm Donation

The facts...

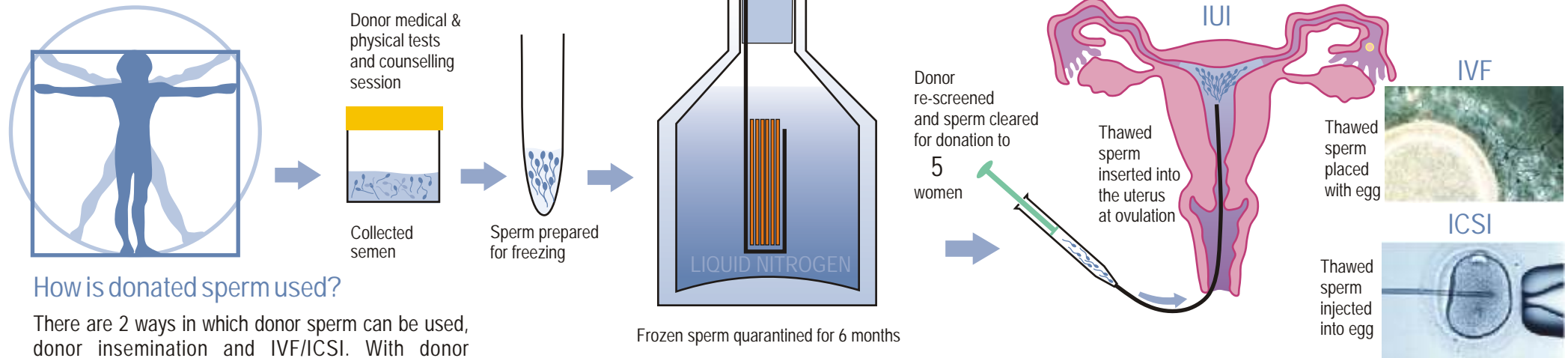
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# The Sperm Donation Process



## How is donated sperm used?

There are 2 ways in which donor sperm can be used, donor insemination and IVF/ICSI. With donor insemination the sperm is inserted into the uterine cavity timed with ovulation. During IVF/ICSI donor sperm is used to generate embryos by fertilizing the recipients eggs in the laboratory and the embryo is transferred to the uterine cavity, with any remaining embryos frozen and stored for future use.

## Additional facts regarding donor sperm?

An individual donor's sperm can be made available to a maximum of 5 women. This limit is set to reduce the risk of genetic disease arising from the inadvertent marriage of half siblings in later life, and out of consideration for the feelings of donors and the children. Most recipients are allowed to choose their donor from the screened and tested donors available, and most choose to match the physical characteristics of the donor as closely as possible with those of the male partner. A recipient may wish to use the same donor for subsequent children after one donor pregnancy has been achieved. Donor sperm is also available to couples in same sex relationships as well as single women. A donor can specify on his consent form which recipients may use his sperm.

## Who can become a sperm donor?

Any healthy male between 25 and 40 years of age may be considered as a possible donor by a sperm bank in New South Wales, provided he fulfils all the current medical and legal requirements.

## How are donors screened?

Each potential donor is thoroughly screened in order to minimize the risks of transmitting infectious disease, such as HIV/AIDS, or an inherited disorder. Sperm quality and its response to freezing, storage and thawing are also tested. Donors must complete a lifestyle declaration and a consent form before each donation of semen and have a liable obligation to disclose any relevant lifestyle or known genetic disorders.

## How is donated sperm stored?

Donated sperm is stored in small plastic tubes called straws and carefully labeled, usually using a system of colour coding, to ensure that no mix-up between donors can occur. The sperm is then frozen in liquid nitrogen for a quarantine period of six months after which time the donor is retested for signs of sexually transmitted infections including HIV. If the tests are clear the sperm can then be made available to recipients.

## Are donors paid for donations?

In Australia, all human tissue donation including sperm is altruistic, but we are allowed to offer some reimbursement to donors to compensate for any inconvenience or expense. This is not always accepted by the donors.

## Can I provide my own donor?

Using a donor who is known to the recipient is allowed in NSW. Known donors initially have to undergo medical testing including genetic and infectious screening. The donor, recipient and their spouses or partners, if any, have to attend counselling sessions with an experienced ANZICA fertility counsellor. Finally if suitable the donor's sperm samples will be frozen and will only be due for release after a 6 month quarantine period and the donor passing a final infectious screen test.

## Considerations and counselling

A number of issues may arise from donating sperm, which a donor may need to consider. These include becoming a parent of children they may never know, ethical or religious concerns, legal implications of the use of donated reproductive material, the confidentiality of information about the donor, and whether a child may in the future seek this information. All these and other issues can be discussed with the fertility counsellor. Fertility counsellors who are affiliated with Fertility East are qualified and experienced ANZICA counsellors, who possess a significant knowledge of the special issues associated with all aspects of fertility and human tissue donation.