

# Resources and links

This information sheet has been produced as part of the Rainbow Families Council's 'Rainbow Families and the law' information kit for same-sex couples and single people in Victoria.

## Websites

### Websites related to donor conception and recognition of parentage

- The Department of Health Website. The Victorian Department of Health is responsible for administering the Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act, and their website contains a range of information about its operations. Go to [www.health.vic.gov.au/art/](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/art/)
- The Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Act (2008) – follow the links at [www.legislation.vic.gov.au](http://www.legislation.vic.gov.au).
- Find information and resources about the federal reforms affecting couples and families at [www.wearitwithpride.com.au](http://www.wearitwithpride.com.au) and at the Federal Attorney-General's department website, [www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination\\_SameSexReform](http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/Humanrightsandanti-discrimination_SameSexReform)
- Births, Death and Marriages Victoria (BDM), which includes information on registering a child born through self-insemination, surrogacy and the Central and Voluntary Registers. See also "correcting a birth certificate" for information on adding the non-birth mother to an existing birth certificate. Go to [www.bdm.vic.gov.au/donorregisters](http://www.bdm.vic.gov.au/donorregisters).
- Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority (VARTA), which includes range of education resources for donor conceived people, their families and donors, and a list of all fertility clinics. Go to [www.varta.org.au](http://www.varta.org.au).
- Patient Review Panel, which must approve all surrogacy procedures and is the avenue for appeal for anyone barred from treatment at a fertility clinic. Go to [www.health.vic.gov.au/prp/](http://www.health.vic.gov.au/prp/)
- Clinic websites contain a wealth of information about aspects of using fertility services to create your family, including Melbourne IVF at [www.mivf.com.au](http://www.mivf.com.au) and Monash IVF at [www.monshivf.com](http://www.monshivf.com).
- The Fertility Society of Australia also lists all fertility clinics in Victoria, at [www.fertilitysociety.com.au/rtac/accredited-units/victoria/](http://www.fertilitysociety.com.au/rtac/accredited-units/victoria/)
- The Centre for Excellence in Child and Family Welfare has information about becoming a foster carer. Call the foster care hotline on 1800 013 088 or visit [www.fosterabrighterfuture.com.au](http://www.fosterabrighterfuture.com.au)

### Other useful websites

- Parents, Family and Friends of Lesbians and Gays' (PFLAG) at [www.pflagvictoria.org.au](http://www.pflagvictoria.org.au)
- Gay and Lesbian Health Victoria Clearinghouse at [www.glhv.org.au](http://www.glhv.org.au)

## Social, support and advocacy groups and organisations

The groups listed are Victoria-based, although some might provide support, information and advocacy on a national level.

### Rainbow families and prospective parents groups

- Gay Dads Australia is a voluntary group providing information, email discussion groups, advocacy and support to gay fathers and prospective parents. It includes state-based groups, including in Victoria. Go to [www.gaydadsaustralia.com.au](http://www.gaydadsaustralia.com.au)
- Rainbow Families Council is a volunteer information, education and advocacy organisation for people in rainbow families, prospective parents and their allies. Its website contains a range of information, family stories and advocacy information. Go to [www.rainbowfamilies.org.au](http://www.rainbowfamilies.org.au)



- The Gay and Lesbian Carers Support Group provides support to gay and lesbian foster carers, permanent carers and kinship carers in Victoria. Contact Tracey on 0427 811 186.

Links to a range of support and social groups can be found on the Rainbow Families Council website at [www.rainbowfamilies.org.au](http://www.rainbowfamilies.org.au), including:

- Prospective Lesbian Parents
- Sole Parents group
- Maybebaby Melbourne
- The Meeting Place
- Rainbow Playgroups
- Gay and Lesbian Carers Support Group

### Other organisations

- The Council for Single Mothers and their Children provides support, information and advocacy to single mothers, including a help line, publication and support and social groups. Go to [www.csmc.org.au](http://www.csmc.org.au).
- The Drummond Street Centre includes a range of programs for rainbow families, including family counselling, mediation, information and advocacy. Go to [www.dscc.org.au](http://www.dscc.org.au).
- Step-parenting Australia provides information, support and resources to families that include step-parents. Go to [www.stepfamily.org.au](http://www.stepfamily.org.au).
- The Foster Care Association of Victoria includes information, support and advocacy around fostering and permanent care. Go to [www.fcav.org.au](http://www.fcav.org.au)

### Books for grownups

Visit Hares and Hyenas bookshop in Fitzroy, or online at [www.hares-hyenas.com.au](http://www.hares-hyenas.com.au). Check out the parenting section for books covering all aspects of parenting, conception and raising children, as new books are produced regularly. Here are a few to get you started.

- *The New Essential Guide to Lesbian Conception, Pregnancy and Birth*, Stephanie Brill, Alyson books, 2006  
This is a US book, but it provides a huge amount of excellent, research-based information and guidance related to every step in the process, including finding and negotiating with donors and co-parents, preparing for pregnancy, birth and beyond.
- *Fatherhood for gay men – and emotional and practice guide to becoming a gay dad*, Kevin McGarry and Margaret Tatich, US, 2003. Recommended for its emotional content, although the practice information is US-based and the links and resource provided now out of date.
- *IVF and Beyond for dummies*, Dr Karin Hammarberg, Wiley, 2010

An Australian book with up-to-date information in most areas. Good information, as in most of the 'Dummies' series. More focussed on processes such as IVF than on other aspects of creating rainbow families.

- *The Infertility Handbook*, Jacqueline Tomlins, Allen & Unwin, 2003, Australia  
An Australian book, its legal information is now out of date, but it provides guidance to many aspects of fertility services as well as a long chapter on creating rainbow families, including making agreements with donors.
- *And Baby Makes More*, Edited by Chloe Brushwood Rose and Susan Goldberg. Insomniac Press 2009  
A Canadian book exploring the many different ways LGBTI people create families together in considerable depth. Well worth reading when thinking about options for creating families.

### Books for children

- *Sometimes it takes three to make a baby: Explaining Egg Donor Conception to Young Children*, Kate Bourne (Melbourne IVF Pty Ltd, 2008) Australia
- *Where did I really come from?* Narelle Wickham (Learn To Include, 2008) Australia
- *Here I am* by Kath D, a comic book about conception with a clinic donor, at [kathd2000.wordpress.com/2010/05/13/here-i-am-comic-book/](http://kathd2000.wordpress.com/2010/05/13/here-i-am-comic-book/)
- *So that's where I came from*, Gina Dawson (Black Dog Books, 2010) Australia
- Also check <http://booksfordonoroffspring.blogspot.com> for a range of books from the UK, US, Canada and Australia.

### Disclaimer and additional links

These resources and links were compiled in October 2010. We welcome suggestions for other resources and links that might be of use for this kit.

The resources and links are provided for information only, and do not represent endorsement by the organisations associated with producing this information kit.

### What else is in this information kit?

- Introduction and definitions
- Recognising pre-existing families
- Options for prospective lesbian parents
- Options for prospective gay male parents
- Options for prospective sperm donors, egg donors and surrogates
- Donor information and registers