

# IN A NUTSHELL - THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN LOCAL (AUSTRALIA) VERSUS OVERSEAS VERSUS IMPORTING

There are pros and cons on each side of the argument and it is really important for Intending Parents (IP) to make an informed decision around some of the legal, financial and emotional costs involved.

## LOCAL (Australia)

### ALTRUISTIC

Australian egg donors must be altruistic, meaning they are not paid unlike other countries. ALL medical and “reasonable” out-of-pocket expenses (travel, time off work) are paid by the IP.

### WEEKS - YEARS

Finding your perfect donor in Australia may be simpler and quicker if you have a family member, friend or colleague that you know is prepared to donate. Conversely, if you need to advertise, it may take many months to years.

Clinic-recruited egg donors are also available (eg Monash or Melbourne IVF).

Timeframe is dependent on the donors available which usually suffer long wait lists. Donors found through forums lack checks and balances, no guarantees.

## OVERSEAS

### PAID

Overseas donors are paid for their gift, PLUS ALL medical and “reasonable” out-of-pocket expenses (travel, time off work) are paid by the IP.

### 6 - 12 WEEKS

You may find your perfect egg donor in a matter of weeks to months. You can be ready for your first transfer in as little as 6 weeks, but ideally 12 weeks.

Variety of cultural / racial choices

## IMPORTING

### PAID

Donor eggs can be purchased and imported from overseas into Australia. Donors are paid for their gift.

### 12 WEEKS

You may find your perfect egg donor in a matter of weeks to months.

There are limited agencies / countries that export to Australia. Those that do include US, Ukraine & Georgia through different organizations- WEB, Central IVF, Egg Donors Asia, Ovogene Bank) Eggs need to be sent to a Clinic in your state that runs an egg donor program.

Variety of cultural / racial choices including caucasian, hispanic, asian, native american



## LOCAL (Australia)

### APPROVAL REQUIRED

It is illegal to advertise for a donor egg, or to be a donor, in Victoria without the express approval of your advertisement by the health minister. It can take 6-8 weeks to receive an approval number. In other states of Australia this is not required.

### KNOWN DONOR

It is not possible to use anonymous donors in Australia, and it is important to consider the implications of knowing the donor for you and your child.

### NO GUARANTEES

## OVERSEAS

### INTERNATIONAL TEAM

Many donors to match you with, which is coordinated by the international team at clinic of choice, information provided is specific to the clinic chosen.

Eg some clinics will match you to donors available at the time, with or without photos, some will provide baby or adult photos. Health history details are also dependent on the clinic.

### ANONYMOUS DONOR

With anonymous donors, no further information or contact is possible between the donor and child, and it is important to consider the future implications for your child.

### GUARANTEES

Dependent on the clinic used. Many will guarantee numbers of mature eggs

## IMPORTING

### CLINIC CHOSEN

The information provided about the donor is specific to the clinic chosen. Eg some clinics will match you without you seeing photos, some will provide baby or adult photos. Health history details are also dependent on the clinic.

### IDENTITY REVEAL / KNOWN

### GUARANTEES

No guarantees for pregnancies or live birth.



## LOCAL (Australia)

### DECLARATION REQUIRED

In VIC & NSW, details of all egg donors are registered and conceived births must be declared on birth registration. Therefore, donors must consent to their identifying information being held by the Victorian and New South Wales Central Register.

### ENTITLED TO INFORMATION

Once Donor-conceived children turn 18 years old, they have the right to learn about their egg donor via the registry. Donors are entitled to information about any offspring born from their donation- number, age, gender.

### MORE COST EFFECTIVE

Generally more cost effective. Include medical costs and associated “reasonable, out-of-pocket” expenses of donor, and IP own medical costs, DEIVF. Medicare rebate applicable.

## OVERSEAS

### NO DECLARATIONS

Donor conceived births remain anonymous and do not need to be declared on the birth registry.

### NO INFORMATION PROVIDED

It is up to the parents to decide how/if they will tell their donor-conceived child. No further information is available about the egg donor than the original information at the time of donation.

### COSTS

Include medical costs and associated “reasonable, out-of-pocket” expenses of the donor, and IP own medical costs, DEIVF, travel, accommodation etc.. Prices are very specific to the clinic and country chosen.  
Medicare rebate not applicable.

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### GENERALLY MOST EXPENSIVE

Costs dependent on agency and guarantees.  
Prices range from AU\$22,000 - \$35,000 depending on number of eggs, fresh or frozen, and their guarantee eg number of day 2 or day 5 embryos, or pregnancy guarantee.  
Medicare rebate not applicable.



## LOCAL (Australia)

### LEGAL OBLIGATIONS

Once egg retrieval is complete, and fertilised using the recipient's husband/partner/donor sperm, the embryos now legally belong to the IP. There are no further legal obligations or commitments for the egg donor.

### MEDICAL SCREENING

All donors are medically screened.

### COUNSELING OBLIGATORY

### WORKING WITH CHILDREN OBLIGATORY

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