

Donor Egg Program

There are numerous reasons women or couples may opt to use donor eggs, including for women who have decreased or no egg reserve, have undergone early onset menopause, are in an older age bracket or have known genetic concerns about their own eggs. Demeter Fertility established one of Australia's first donor programs back in 2010 and currently has a comprehensive donor egg program through agreements with four certified international donor banks.

What is a donor?

Donor fertility treatments is when the sperm or egg (or both) used to create embryos for a patient or couple is donated to them from someone else. Under NSW and Australia law, a donor cannot be paid for donating their gametes (egg, sperm or embryo). Donated gametes can come in two ways:

Known Donor

Somebody sourced by the patient or couple and is someone usually known to them (e.g. a friend or family member) who undergoes an egg collection and then donates the gametes through a legal process (signing of papers) to the parent or couple to use.

Unknown Donor

Occurs when a patient or couple purchases some deidentified donor eggs through a fertility clinic or certified legal bank. There are no certified banks in Australia, however Demeter Fertility sources gametes from international banks through contracted agreements.

How does it work?

- 1. See a doctor** - Speak to a Demeter Fertility specialist about your goals and treatment options, undertake a medical assessment to identify treatable infertility causes and the options and recommendations based on your specific situation.
- 2. Screening and Tests** - Donors undergo comprehensive screening: medical and personal history, semen analysis, physical exam, blood/urine tests, and genetic screening, it is important for patients to undergo similar testing to ensure donors align.
- 3. Meet NSW and Australian legal requirements** - this includes undergoing mandatory counselling sessions and some blood and genetic tests.
- 4. Pick a donor** - Speak to our Donor Coordinator about the process and then peruse and pick from our available donors. Unique supply agreements allow us to source donors once you're ready to pick a donor.
- 5. Begin your treatment** - once all your donor requirements are met and you have a donor picked, bought and shipped to our clinic, you can start your treatments when you are comfortable and ready.

Program Costs

Egg donor cycles via known or unknown donation are globally recognised as the most expensive fertility treatments, not because of clinic costs but the costs associated with the donor eggs.

It's important to remember in order to get these eggs, a woman has agreed under her own volition to undergo an egg freezing cycle and the costs associated with these cycles are significant and have to be covered. This makes donor eggs an expensive venture, anywhere from \$6000USD to \$20,000USD+ depending on the bank and the donor you choose.

However at Demeter Fertility we keep costs down where we can in our clinic, charging standard rates for fertilisation and frozen embryo transfer cycles, and no extra costs for our donor coordinator consults or legal work associated with purchasing donated material, in an attempt to ease any financial strain.