



MEDIA ALERT

Australian Story: Searching for C11 (Part 1)

Monday 11 August, 8pm on ABC

"All that I knew about my biological father was he had blond hair and blue eyes and he was 5'11" and he was known by this pseudonym of C11." **Dr Lauren Burns**

"I did feel very guilty that I'd told her and sometimes even wished that I hadn't because it ... became almost an obsession to discover her donor. But I underestimated Lauren."

Barbara Burns, mother

"It was a difficult balance ...you promise people anonymity and you're going back on that promise." **Prof David de Krester, Barbara Burns treating doctor**



When she was 21, Lauren Burns was told a family secret that turned her world upside down. Her mother revealed that Lauren had been conceived using donor sperm in the early '80s at a clinic in Melbourne. Her parents never told anyone in the family and the donor was assured his identity would remain secret.

Lauren, who is now a gifted aeronautical engineer, was shattered by the revelation. She felt an overwhelming need to discover the identity of her biological father and understand the truth of her biological make-up.

At the time she was conceived there was no law defining the relationship between donor and offspring. Legislation was enacted in 1988 enabling the identification of donors but for those like Lauren who were conceived before then there remained no way to discover that identity.

That wasn't good enough for Lauren. She needed to know. She spent the next four years trying to solve that mystery with passion and persistence.

Over two episodes *Australian Story* follows Lauren's dogged detective work. What she manages to uncover is truly astonishing.

The *Australian Story* special also looks at the related stories of two other donor-conceived children. It examines the complex ethical issues surrounding donor confidentiality and raises serious questions about the ethical practices of donor-insemination clinics and the rights of the child.

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