

Heidi's Story

Growing up in the Territory, life was pretty tough on the land. Long, hot days on the station, with very little social interaction. My parents owned a cattle station and I was an only child. I never had anyone to compete with or compare myself to. My parents got married when I was a baby. Photos still hang on the family home wall today, of this day. When I turned 21 they made a stark admission to me. My dad was in fact not my biological father. Deception that had been achieved by silence from both my mum and dad! It turns out mum was already pregnant when she met my dad. My biological father wasn't on the scene, so my dad made the decision to raise me as his own. They tried for years to have another baby together, but for some reason it didn't happen. 21 was a tough time to be told, I felt isolated, I felt angry and all alone trying to navigate this huge news. My parents deemed it the "right" time to finally tell me though. For something like this I don't think there is ever a "right" time to be delivered this type of news. It took a massive toll on me and I started to rebel. I felt like I had lost my identity and didn't know who I was anymore. I left the station and went working and travelling as I tried to come to grips with the news. It took a very long time and I reached some of my darkest days of my life during the initial first few months.

Years later when I met and married my husband he supported me in my search to try and track down my biological father. I was successful, although it was nearly too late. My biological father was sick and dying and passed away not long after. From him though I was able to learn my accurate family medical history. I had genetic testing done and I learned I carry two genes from him which now places me at a higher increased risk of developing what my biological father passed away from. I now take preventative measures every year to increase my health for a longer life time.

Although my parents believed at the time they thought they acted in my best interest they have since learnt they really didn't. I'm not sure my relationship with my mum and dad will ever be the same again now and it's all because of one major issue, Misattributed Paternity.