

This response was submitted to the call for evidence by the Nuffield Council on Bioethics on *Emerging techniques to prevent inherited mitochondrial disorders: ethical issues* between January 2012 and February 2012. The views expressed are solely those of the respondent(s) and not those of the Council.

### **Mrs Andrea Williams**

I feel it is a good thing to be able to have the chance to prevent passing on the Mitochondrial disease. I am a patient who suffers from Mitochondrial diseases. My mother passed it down to my brother and I and now I have passed it on to my 7 year old daughter.

We all are visually impaired and as we get into our 20s+ we suffer slow deterioration of sight, muscle weakness and late 20s+ problems with hearing too. When I was pregnant with my daughter there was not even a test to see if she was affected before she was born. I think it should be available to have the treatment where an egg donor is involved especially as it is only the Mitochondrial cells that are being used from the egg donor and the child will still have all the characteristics of the parents.

If I'd had the opportunity to have the chance to prevent my daughter from suffering from the disease I would have had the treatment. I would have no need to tell her about the treatment.

It has been mentioned about the psychological affect it would have on your child if you told them about the 3rd parent . I do not think it is necessary to tell the child as it is only the mitochondrial cells taken not the whole egg and I feel there is a lot more to deal with mentally coping with the mitochondrial condition and feeling guilty passing the disease on to your child.

Being the person in the middle generation of my family with the disease I have the psychological problems of seeing what problems I have to come as my mother is blind deaf and unable to walk now and seeing what difficulties my daughter has lying ahead of her. In a generation the awful disease could be wiped out. This would be great for all those families suffering with Mitochondrial disease and save a lot of money for the nhs in the future.