

Hi. My name is Silvia. I met Annette about 10 years ago when I went along to an information evening about endometriosis. I became a volunteer about 2007.

I've been living with endometriosis for about 15 years. It took a year of going back and forth to my GP and different procedures before being referred to a gynaecologist who diagnosed me with severe endometriosis.

I have undergone several drug treatments, two laparoscopies, two laparotomies and a colonoscopy. After my last operation, I was told my tubes were too damaged and that it would be a miracle if I fell pregnant.

I went through hell and back with this horrible disease and my dream of becoming a mum was going to be a long and hard journey.

The journey started with looking at adoption, which we decided wasn't for us at that time. Our next step was IVF; our first try was unsuccessful. I grieved for a baby that never was. It was a very low point in my life. I could handle all the needles and procedures; I struggled with the emotional toll it would take on both myself and my husband.

About a year later, we were approached by friends to adopt a younger sister's baby. We were so excited, but three months before she was born it all fell through. I was a total mess grieving again for a baby that wasn't even mine. It took a long time to get back to some sort of normal life again.

We decided we needed a new start so I looked at information about other IVF clinics, and found that Melbourne IVF had a high success rate. I had family there, so we decided to move to Melbourne to try our luck.

We did our first round of IVF a year after we arrived in Melbourne. We produced an A grade embryo which was implanted. It was the longest two weeks of our lives. We got the call I was pregnant! I couldn't believe it! To prove to myself it was real, I took a pregnancy test and it was positive. Nine months later, I gave birth to our beautiful daughter Rhiana, who is now 7. We returned to NZ a year later with our precious girl.

I'm one of the lucky ones as I have been symptom-free for years now, touch wood!!

For more information:

Visit us at: InsightEndometriosis.org.nz or [Facebook.com/InsightEndometriosis](https://www.facebook.com/InsightEndometriosis)
or contact our Educator, Annette: 07 8555 123 info@InsightEndometriosis.org.nz
