

the last thing in the world we wanted was to think of the possibility that our parents 'did it'. Some people find it hard enough to hold a polite conversation with their parents for more than 15 minutes about safe topics, let alone sitting them down and discussing the importance of masturbating quickly to preserve the quality of sperm.

So it's in this environment of 'not talking' about sexual issues that you find yourself in. While you may want to talk about it so you can keep them informed about your lives - or simply to stop them asking when their grandchildren will be arriving - you may not be able to.

While you're suffering and wondering if you'll ever have children and be a parent, your parents may be starting to wonder as well. And it may be harder for them than you think.

### ***What your parents are going through***

One thing that can be important in dealing with your parents, is to understand what they are going through as they are watching you struggle to have a family.

#### *Parents who have no grandchildren yet*

*"I got to the point where if I heard that another one of my friends was having another grandchild I was going to scream. It was the same as for my daughter. She would say 'I'm sick of everyone saying to me 'I know someone who's been through IVF and they'd had a baby'. Six months later people were saying the same thing to me and I got pretty sick of it too."*

*– Shirley, 56*

You see, while your immediate circle of influence is churning out kids that are a constant reminder to you of your own lack of children, your parents are probably moving in circles that are constantly pumping out grandchildren - a constant reminder of their lack of grandchildren. They have no brag book to show the other grannies at morning tea.

That's another thing. What do we call older women? Grannies. We don't even consider whether or not they have grandchildren, we just assume they do in the title that we give them.

It's a special privilege to be able to have grandchildren. You get to spoil them rotten and carry around brag books full of their photos. For goodness sake, when one of your offspring has a child, your title suddenly becomes grand. You were a father, now you're a *grandfather*.