Australian Law Reform Commission: Adult Feedback

I am making this submission to contribute to the Australian Law Reform Commission's review of Australian surrogacy laws, policies, and practices.

1. I am writing about my experience

- (●) in Australia
- ( ) Overseas

2. I have experience as an

- (●) Intended parent
- ( ) Egg Donor
- ( ) Parent
- ( ) Surrogate

3. What are some good things about your experience of surrogacy?

Developing a meaningful long-term relationship with our surrogacy family, and becoming parents to our amazing son

4. What were the difficulties you encountered?

For us, we were very fortunate to meet our wonderful surrogate and really had no difficulties with regards the actual pregnancy and birth. However, other difficulties were initially meeting our surrogate; navigating the process across states (different legislation); and finalising the change in birth certificate following the parentage order, as the state out son was born in was not

5. Should there be more education about surrogacy? Why?

Yes - see question 7.

6. When a child is born through surrogacy, should their parents be legally recognised straight away? Explain why.

Yes, however, this is dependent on the type of surrogacy arrangement. In our case, the embryo was genetically ours, and as such we should have been legally recognised as our sons' parents

7. What needs to be improved about surrogacy for Australians?

Increased awareness - many people we spoke to did not realise surrogacy was legal in Australia. Increased oversight (access to) surrogates, as outside of family members being surrogates, Facebook appears to be the main way of meeting a surrogate, which has its risks

8. In Australia, surrogates and donors are not allowed to be paid. What do you think of that?

Completely agree - we should not go down the path of other countries which allows transactional arrangements

9. Is there anything else you want to share about surrogacy and the rules around it?

No