

I would ask that Australia stop allowing commercial surrogacy. I believe that there are many reasons that surrogacy is immoral – it has too many risks for women and children to be exploited. Parenthood is not a right. I have deep empathy for people wishing to become parents, but I do not believe that any person (straight, gay, married, single, young or old) has the right to a child. There are too many risks for women to be exploited and for children to be abused. I personally know of a married couple (2 men) who used a commercial surrogate in the USA to traffic a purchased baby back to Australia. Their surrogate has had multiple babies for gay couples, but her body has suffered immensely as a result of the higher risks of pregnancy associated with surrogacy. Not to mention her mental health, which continues to deteriorate. She was their second surrogate, the first one fell through because she was a victim of ongoing domestic violence. These women are vulnerable and are being 'encouraged' to be surrogates for wealthy couples who have absolutely no concern for their wellbeing once the purchase is complete. By allowing this, we are allowing women and children to be commodified, with potentially tragic outcomes for those involved. As yet, their child is too young to reveal how they feel about being trafficked, but studies indicate that the outcomes are potentially negative. Thank you for your consideration.