I am a 19 year old woman. I am in my first year of studying Engineering and Biotechnology at the [redacted].

My involvement with surrogacy is that my two dads had me, my twin brother, and my two younger sisters via commercial surrogacy arrangements in the United States.

I am a supporter of surrogacy as it was the reason I was born. My dads couldn't have become parents and created our family without it. I am very happy that I have two loving dads and that they've had the opportunity to have children through surrogacy. In general I think it's great that there's an avenue for people to have biological children even if it isn't possible for them to conceive a child themselves.

People don't treat me differently because I was born through surrogacy. It doesn't come up that often and I don't really think about it. No one thinks it is weird that I have two dads. It feels very natural. No one has ever asked me what it is like not having a mother and I've never really thought about that.

I think my surrogate is a great woman and I am very thankful that she was willing to help my dads out. I have met her quite a few times on holidays to the USA. I feel like she is a distant family member that we see once in a while. I do not think about her as a mother, as I consider my two dads to be my real parents.

My dads are both named on my birth certificate, issued by the US Government. My surrogate is not named. My dads are legally recognised in California as my parents through a court order that declares them my sole parents. My surrogate has no legal rights over me. I'm aware that this is not the case in Australia and that Australian law doesn't fully recognise my dads as my legal parents. I think this is ridiculous as they've raised me since the day I was born. My dads should be the only people with any legal rights as my parents. This is the legal situation in the USA where I was born, but not in Australia where I've lived my entire life. I think it's illogical that a woman I've only met a few times is still my legal parent due to Australian law, instead of my two dads who I consider my real parents.

Until recently when I turned 18, my dads had to get my surrogate's permission every time they wanted to get me a new Australian passport. I think it is unfair to require my dads to harass my surrogate like this, and for her to have to waste her time signing these forms when she already relinquished all her rights before I was born. I know that she herself thinks this is stupid every time she has had to do it.

In terms of surrogates and egg donors being paid, I think this is fine. There can be countless complications in pregnancy and it can be extremely risky. Surrogates deserve compensation for all the investment they make in the process.