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?

   Meeting other people on the journey.
   Having hope that I can have a family one day.

4. What were the difficulties you encountered?

   The difficulty of finding a surrogate. Financial barriers.

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

   It would be good for the wider community to know more about it to increase awareness. More available information on the experiences of surrogates, to inform potential surrogates of the pros and cons.

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

   Yes. I haven't experienced it yet, but I would think that it would make the process after the birth smoother and less stressful. This would give more space for the parents to focus solely on the baby.

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

   Consistent laws across all states.
   For tasmanians - to be able to access surrogates from other states. Tasmania has a small population and therefore there are considerably less options for potential surrogates. Additionally, willing family memebers could live in other states.

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

   I think they should be compensated for the things that cannot be physically measured and offered payment for this. Things like wear and tear on the body, time and energy spent on the process and being pregnant, going through the challenges of birthing, and any disruptions to their own family life. I think payment should be legal.

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