From: [redacted]
To: Surrogacy
Subject: Surrogacy submission
Date: Friday, 11 July 2025 1:22:02 PM

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Dear Commissioners,

I am writing to express my strong support for the legalisation of commercial surrogacy in Australia, and to urge the Australian Law Reform Commission to recommend comprehensive reforms that reflect the needs, rights, and dignity of all parties involved in surrogacy arrangements.

Currently, many Australians facing infertility, same-sex couples, and single individuals are forced to seek commercial surrogacy arrangements overseas due to restrictive domestic laws. This not only places an emotional and financial burden on intended parents but also exposes surrogate mothers and children to inconsistent legal and ethical protections.

Legalising and regulating commercial surrogacy in Australia would provide several key benefits:

Protection and Oversight: A legal and regulated framework would ensure the health, safety, and rights of surrogate mothers, intended parents, and children are clearly protected and monitored. Ethical guidelines, screening processes, counselling, and informed consent would be mandatory and enforceable.

Equality and Accessibility: Legal commercial surrogacy would provide a more inclusive pathway to parenthood for all Australians, regardless of relationship status, sexual orientation, or medical history. It would end the reliance on expensive and often legally uncertain overseas arrangements.

Transparency and Accountability: Domestic regulation ensures that all parties have access to legal clarity and support, reducing the risk of exploitation and unethical practices.

Support for Surrogates: Women who choose to become surrogates deserve recognition and fair compensation for their time, effort, and physical commitment. Commercial surrogacy, when ethically managed, respects and values their contribution without exploiting them.

Reduction in Cross-Border Legal Complexities: International surrogacy creates a host of citizenship, visa, and parenting order challenges. A domestic legal option would simplify family formation and better protect children's legal rights and identities.

I strongly believe that it is possible to legalise commercial surrogacy while maintaining ethical standards and preventing exploitation through a carefully constructed and compassionate framework. Australia has the capacity to lead the world in setting best-practice surrogacy standards that honour bodily autonomy, fairness, and family diversity.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. I respectfully urge the Commission to recommend the legalisation and careful regulation of commercial surrogacy in Australia.

[redacted]

To the Australian Law Reform Commission,

I would like to make a submission about the reforms being made in relation to surrogacy and also make a rebuttal against the ACL's submission against surrogacy reform.

Australia makes surrogacy too hard for people in Australia and the ACL has not recognised certain forms of surrogacy.

I would like to share my personal experience as I would like this sort of situation to be captured and thought about when making these laws.

In 2019 I was diagnosed with Endometrial Cancer. It was fully encased within my uterus, and thankfully I was fully cured with a total radical hysterectomy. I was able to save my ovarian tissue which will be implanted back into my body within the next year.

However, I can not carry my own child due to the medical situation I was unfortunate to experience. I am not the only female to experience this. Some people say "well why don't you just adopt" to do so in Australia is near impossible. There were literally approximately 14 children Australia wide adopted last year. Foster care is also NOT designed for children in care to be adopted, it is designed for children to be reconnected with their own parents, or extended family. International adoption is a possibility but even then you are taking children away from their cultural roots.

For me, I can make my own biological child. A lot of people do look at overseas alternatives because there are no legal parentage options for surrogacy here in Australia to protect Intended parents if a surrogate changes their mind, EVEN though the child is biologically the Intended Parents.

In the USA they have surrogacy laws that protect all parties involved in the surrogacy process, and as a result this does have a fee associated with it. This is why people like to go through the USA for surrogacy. Yes there is financial gain in this scenario for the person carrying the child, but a woman should be compensated for helping you grow your baby when you are unable to do so. If there were enough volunteers then maybe there would be no need, but there are not enough surrogates in Australia and the yearn to have a child is something I think should not be unfairly denied.

In my situation, any child that I have go through the surrogacy process is not the biological child of the surrogate. So the ACL stating that surrogacy takes babies away from their biological families and siblings is not only incorrect but I believe 100% based on discrimination. The ACL support International Adoption of children, is that not removing children from their biological homeland and culture? I believe their objections to the change in surrogacy laws is based on discrimination against same sex couples, and not out of genuine concern for women and children. If you look at the way the USA monitors surrogacy, surrogates are treated very well and compensated appropriately.

Kind Regards,

[redacted]