Australian Law Reform Commission: Adolescent & Young 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 14 years old.

2. I was born via surrogacy:
   - ○ in Australia
   - ◉ Overseas

3. I was born with the help of:
   - ◉ Egg Donor
   - ○ Sperm Donor
   - ○ Both
   - ○ Neither

4. What are some good things about being born through surrogacy?

   Parent(s) who are unable to have children who really want them shouldn't be ineligible for the prospect of having children. Even if they are biologically related, they can be equally and more loved. In my case this is true.

5. Describe any tricky or difficult times you've had because you were born through surrogacy?

   I can't think of anything that is directly related to me having a difficult time because I am 'a product of surogacy'. I don't even think about it, I see my mum and don't think anything, it's just that she's my mum.

6. Should there be more education about surrogacy in schools and the media? Why?

   Yes, whenever I explain it to my friends it's a long Q&A session. It shouldn't be. I mean it's fine that they have questions, but it should be at least talked about a bit.

7. When a child is born through surrogacy, should their parents be legally recognised straight away (currently they are not)? Explain why.

   Why wouldn't they be? They are their parents. A donor and certainly not the surrogate are not the parents.

8. In Australia, a surrogate is allowed to change their mind about handing over the baby to the parents. What do you think of that?

   I think it is a spit in the face to the soon to be parents. Imagine if a contractor or employee decided to split mid way through and try to take the profits, that would be illegal and morally disingenuous. They shouldn't be allowed.

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

   I think they should. For one surrogates somewhat forfeit nine months of their lives to hold the child they are carrying. Egg donors and sperm donors should also be compensated, but i'm not as sure as surrogates.

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

    nothing really.