From: [redacted]
To: Surrogacy
Subject: Submission to ALRC on Surrogacy Laws Review
Date: Saturday, 5 July 2025 9:34:08 AM

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Dear Australian Law Reform Commission,

As a concerned citizen, parent, and grandparent, I am writing to express my strong opposition to the legalisation of surrogacy in Australia. Surrogacy poses serious human rights implications and risks associated with modern slavery and human trafficking, particularly for both the babies born through surrogacy and the surrogate mothers involved.

Our family has lived experience of surrogacy. Surrogacy segments what should be one woman, mother, into three seperate and in effect optional woman; the genetic mother, the birth mother and the social mother. Our niece has recently gone down this convoluted pathway to fulfil her adult desires to the detriment of the rights and needs of her child. She knowingly entered into a same-sex marriage which by nature is an infertile relationship. That relationship brought with it two-step children. Yet, to fulfil her desire to be a mother, she has become a surrogate using her wife's eggs and her brother's sperm. A biological connection to the child matters to the adults involved. But what of the child? He has no say about maintaining the inherent biological connection to his mother and father. Already, at only 6 months of age, his biological father is estranged from his social parents. This child's right to be known and loved by his biological father is being trampled. And this, in an altruistic arrangement, within a family. How much more are a child's rights violated in a commercial arrangement?

In response to question 2 of the inquiry, the reform principles should prioritise the interests of all children and protect the rights of women from sexual and reproductive abuse.

Question 3 highlights the need for Australia to prohibit all forms of surrogacy, especially commercial surrogacy, to prevent the commodification of women and children.

Additionally, questions 16, 17, and 21 emphasise the importance of maintaining the illegality of international and commercial surrogacy to safeguard the rights of the child and birth mother, as well as to uphold the child's right to know their biological parent. There are known incidents in Australia where children have essentially been trafficked by using the laxness of international surrogacy laws. Adult's with criminal child abuse records have been able to "obtain" a child with little or no regulation or oversight. Although I would prefer to see the practice of surrogacy banned outright, at a very minimum, intended parents should be subject to the same stringent assessments as adoptive parents to ensure the child is going into a safe and suitable environment.

Furthermore, in line with question 13, surrogacy advertising should be prohibited to prevent exploitation and coercion.

I urge the ALRC to consider these concerns and take a strong stance against the legalisation of surrogacy in Australia. Protecting the rights and well-being of women and children should be our highest priority.

Sincerely,