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| Full Name | [redacted] |
| Completion Date | 13-Jun-25 |
| Email Address | [redacted] |
| Which community group are you part of, if any? (e.g. Western Australia Surrogacy Facebook Group) | |
| Do you or someone close to you has had personal experience of surrogacy? | Yes |
| In your view: What parts of your experience were positive? What parts of your experience were negative? What could be improved and how? | Not being able to access surrogacy in Western Australia was the biggest negative. The cost of having to access surrogacy overseas is also a huge negative.<br>Allowing surrogacy in Western Australia for men would make it easier and less expensive. Discrimination is the backbone of the lack of legislation and needs to change immediately. |
| How you were involved in the process (for example, if you were a surrogate, intended parent, or child born through surrogacy)? | My son and his husband have had to travel overseas to have a child through surrogacy. I support them and their daughter in every way that I can. |
| Did the process take place in Australia? | No, Overseas |
| If the process took place overseas, the country in which the surrogacy arrangement took place and what was attractive about that country? | Canada is very much like Australia in many ways. They have allowed surrogacy for a long time and have procedures in place already that are manageable for Australians. |
| Did you face any barriers because of certain personal characteristics (for example, if you were in a same-sex relationship or from a culturally or linguistically diverse background)? | None were encountered that I was privy to. |
| What reform principles should guide this inquiry? | Discrimination should not be allowed in any form. |
| What do you think are the key human rights issues raised by domestic and/or international surrogacy arrangements? How should these be addressed? | Each country addresses their own human rights issues (whether we agree with them or not) and Australia will as well. Common sense is always the best place to start. |
| What information about the circumstances of their birth do you think children born through surrogacy should have access to? How should this be provided or facilitated? | Parents ultimately decide this but the same as adoption laws would make a good place to start.<br>My granddaughter has two fathers as her parents but already knows who gave birth to her and in what country. |
| What do you think are the main barriers that prevent people from entering surrogacy arrangements in Australia? How could these be overcome? (You might want to consider the experiences of any group... | I believe anyone who cannot have children naturally (for whatever reason) should have access to surrogacy and NO discrimination should be allowed to occur. |
| Should there be eligibility requirements for surrogacy? If so, what should those requirements be? | Unfortunately there are no eligibility requirements for parenthood, so other than age (minimum adult age requirement] and a requirement that the child will not be born into a Social Security requiring environment, there should be very few requirements. |
| Are there any eligibility requirements which should be introduced, changed, or removed? | No comment. |
| Are there any requirements for a valid surrogacy agreement you think should be introduced, removed, or changed? | Other countries require a legal contract to be entered into by the parties concerned and this seems reasonable starting point. |
| Should surrogacy agreements be enforceable? You might want to consider: (a) if all parts of the agreement should be enforceable; (b) who should be able to enforce the agreement; and (c) how agreem... | I would look at surrogacy in other countries that successfully practice this.<br>I believe agencies and organisations which are involved with the surrogacy process are held accountable for their part, whatever that is. |
| What process requirements should be in place for surrogacy arrangements? You might want to consider: (a) if counselling should also be available after the child's birth; (b). what should happen if... | Psychological review should be a requirement for surrogates and possibly for prospective parents. A child who is born being wanted by everyone or no one is not a situation that would be acceptable. |
| What are the gaps in professional services for surrogacy in Australia? You might want to consider: (a) if surrogacy agencies should operate in Australia; and (b) the availability, accessibility, a... | No comment. |
| How should professional services operate in Australia? You might want to consider: (a) what their role should be; (b) if they should be for-profit or not-for-profit, or how they should be funded; ... | Not-for-profit organisations are easily manipulated in Australia, with CEO's and executives claiming high wages and not providing services to clients before profits. I therefore think it could be a mixture of both.<br>Parents and surrogates must be protected before organisations or businesses involved in the process. |

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| **How should surrogacy advertising be regulated? You might want to consider: (a) if advertising should be allowed; (b) who should be allowed to advertise; (c) what advertising content should be allo...** | The Health Department would be an obvious starting point but they are so underfunded and dysfunctional in most States that they may not be able to administer necessary processing for surrogacy.<br>Advertising should not be allowed but a surrogacy register sounds like a starting point.<br>There are already pages for potential surrogates and parents to find out information. |
| **What entitlements, if any, should be available to surrogates and intended parents? You might want to consider: (a) Medicare rebates for fertility treatments; (b) access by surrogates to paid or un...** | All Australians should be entitled to Medicare rebates. Perhaps a maternity leave arrangement would be appropriate as a surrogate is not going to be the parent. I am sure costs could be kept much lower than required for overseas surrogacy (for parents). |
| **How could the process for reimbursing surrogates for reasonable expenses be improved? You might want to consider: (a) what expenses should be reimbursable; (b) how payment should be calculated; (c...** | I believe surrogacy should be altruistic but compensation for out of pocket expenses such as Specialists gaps; maternity clothing; perhaps private health insurance for the surrogate and perhaps insurance for loss of income. |
| **Do you support (a) compensated surrogacy and/or (b) 'commercial' surrogacy? You might want to consider whether you agree with how we have described compensated and 'commercial' surrogacy.** | No comment. |
| **If Australia was to allow for compensated or 'commercial' surrogacy, how could this be implemented? You might want to consider: (a) how compensation should be calculated; (b) if there should be a ...** | No comment. |
| **What are the main problems with the requirements and processes for obtaining legal parentage for a child born through domestic and/or international surrogacy?** | An initial birth certificate showing the surrogate as the mother (because she gave birth). The father could be named on the certificate if they are going to raise the child and are not just a sperm donor. |
| **How could the process for intended parents to become the legal parents of children born through surrogacy be improved? You might want to consider: (a) timing (for example, if the process happens b...** | If a legal contract is in place for the surrogacy, then it should be a judicial "rubber stamp"<br>Compare and learn for any and all surrogacy processes in other countries but using a common sense approach.<br>Best interests of the child is relative to the surrogate, the parents and the Judiciary depending on the situation. |
| **What, if any, are the main problems with obtaining the following documents for a child born through international surrogacy: (a) Australian citizenship; (b) an Australian passport; or (c) an Austr...** | Discrimination of same sex parents and surrogacy seem to be a problem for obtaining a passport for a surrogate child. If a legal birth certificate shows the parents of a child born overseas are Australian citizens, then it should be a very simple process. |
| **How could the process for obtaining these documents be improved?** | Something rare in Australian Bureaucracy, common sense. |
| **What is the best way to approach differences in surrogacy regulation between or within jurisdictions? You might want to consider: (a) the ways in which surrogacy regulation is inconsistent between...** | Use of common sense instead of Bureaucratic Mumbo Jumbo and rivalry between States. |
| **Is it appropriate for surrogacy arrangements to be subject to oversight? If so, what is the best approach? You might want to consider: (a) the need for a regulator or oversight body and what it co...** | Oversight for problems that occur and to ensure correct procedures are being followed could be a group or Council comprised of a variety of professionals and interested persons. Professionals need not outnumber the interested persons. |
| **Should the law have a role in discouraging or prohibiting certain forms of surrogacy? You may wish to consider: (a) if engaging in or facilitating certain forms of surrogacy, whether in Australia ...** | No comment. |
| **Do you think there is a need to improve awareness and understanding of surrogacy laws, policies, and practices? You might think about how people currently find out about surrogacy, or the particul...** | Education can be a wonderful help but blanket advertising about surrogacy would not necessarily be beneficial. |
| **Do you have any views about the issues we consider to be in or out of scope?** | No comment. |
| **Are there any important issues with regulating surrogacy that we have not identified in the Issues Paper? Do you have any other ideas for reforming how surrogacy is regulated?** | Get it done as quickly as possible. Delaying peoples ability to have children is not endearing. |