From: [redacted]
To: Surrogacy
Subject: Surrogacy laws
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Hello

My name is [redacted] and I am wanting to write in my lived experience with surrogacy in Australia as an intended mother, in a heterosexual relationship with my male partner.

I found the surrogacy process to be extremely hypocritical, Australia says commercialised surrogacy is illegal yet everyone involved in the process beside the surrogate makes an enormous profit off intended parents.

Also the transfers and egg collections once in surrogacy have no Medicare rebate. Even though they're the same procedures as IVF.

Commercialised surrogacy is frowned upon yet it can be just as expensive here for people like us who had multiple failed transfers and all the hidden costs within the process.

Including the parentage order once our son has been born. Our son was made from my egg and my partner sperm yet to get our own names on his birth certificate we have been quoted $3,500.

Getting a parentage order done with a newborn causes huge amounts of stress on new parents and I believe this should be done before birth or at the hospital made easier.

This also brings my attention to the lack of the legal side of surrogacy. We are made to pay for legal fee's yet they do not even stand in the end if things turn badly. There should be written contracts not just agreements.

I believe surrogacy should stop being criminalised, as those who have needed a surrogate in Australia either can not carry due to medical reasons or are in same sex marriages.
Surrogates also offer and agree to the selfless act of bringing someone else's child into the world, yet are not allowed to be supported financially enough.

I am not saying to be paid huge amounts like in the states but something like a payment each week to ensure they're being cared for, extra leave or entitlements by government. If indended parents are to pay for it then the costs of surrogacy should be rebatable and like IVF as again they're the same procedures.

If there were agencies that matched people before the process things, knowing both intended parents and surrogates morals, boundaries and values I believe would work out a lot better than many do now.
Also many intended parents who have gone overseas probably wouldn't have if they had these options.

The horror stories are the families who have not been able to do things ethically, haven't been able to afford the proper process, counselling ect. Then things have fallen apart.

This was our second journey as our first fell apart. We have an incredible relationship with our surrogate and her family.

Our son is 7 weeks old and the light of our life.
As someone who's cared for other people's children since I was 17 having my own to care for and finally having a family is a blessing I only could of dreamed of if it wasn't for surrogacy.

Our journey has cost around $70,000. It has been absolutely huge and the same amount as overseas.

Not everyone is lucky enough to have that first transfer work.

If people can do IVF, have Medicare rebates and also bulking billing IVF clinics- we should be able to make

surrogacy more accessible and look after surrogates too.

If you have any other questions feel free to contact me.

Kind regards

[redacted]

Sent from my iPhone