From: Amelia Colley
To: Surrogacy
Subject: Submission to surrogacy law review
Date: Wednesday, 9 July 2025 8:41:39 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter in the hopes that it can help make a much needed change to the current surrogacy laws. As a very new mum to my 12 week old baby boy born via surrogacy I am VERY passionate about the changes that need to be made and would really love it if I could actually speak to a member of government to help create a little more understanding towards the situation. I have attached the links to our ABC podcast and article in hopes it will help you see we are human beings that endure a huge emotional toll when it comes to trying to create a family via surrogacy - if laws were changed it would make the world of difference.

I am 28 years old, I was born without a uterus and my husband and I have just welcomed our baby boy into this world via surrogacy (our very close friend was our surrogate). Once our parentage order is done we would have spent around $70,0000. We are currently 28 & 31.. to the people making these decisions...please think about the 20/30 year olds in your life, $70K is a lot of money at that age, it means ALOT of sacrifices that shouldn't have to be made..a change in the laws could help reduce some of these cost.

Besides adoption, surrogacy was my only option to start a family. As I hope you can imagine up until my baby boy was born my life was full of so many emotions around not having a uterus. My husband and I thought finding someone to be a surrogate was going to be the hard part..once our friend offered we soon found out the hardest part hadn't even begun. I hope when you read my next points that you can empathise with the emotional and financial toll this took on our lives each and every day. [redacted] (our baby) is now 12 weeks old and it still continues as we are trying to navigate the very dated laws to try and get our parentage order completed. Please know that I absolutely do NOT believe that anyone and everyone should be able to start a family via surrogacy, I think it should continue to only be available to those who actually need a surrogate for medical reasons.

MEDICARE:

Surrogacy is not covered by medicare yet you need to have a medical reason to be approved by the IVF clinic to start a family via surrogacy. This just makes NO sense to me. I was born without a uterus and I cannot claim medicare for surrogacy..however, woman are claiming rebates every single day for many other reasons - some women have fertility issues due to being overweight from their bad lifestyle decisions yet I could not claim medicare for being born without a uterus which is completely out of my control and a MEDICAL CONDITION.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE:

[redacted] is 12 weeks old and we are still not his parents on his birth certificate. Howie is my eggs and my husbands sperm, he is our embyro yet our surrogate and her husband are his parents on the birth certificate even though biologically he is ours, he has lived with us from day one and we had a surrogacy agreement in place to say he is our baby.. Now I don't know how much else needs to be explained here to show how ridiculous and unnessecary this is. Surely you can see this NEEDS to change. The parentage order process is going to cost around $10K. My husband and I want to be giving all of our time and energy to [redacted] but unfortunately we are spending a lot of time, money and energy trying to navigate getting this parentage order processed. Can I also add how incredibly hard getting [redacted] a medicare card has been due to this. We want to go overseas on a family holiday but how are we suppose to get him a passport and take him overseas when legally he isn't actually our child...even though we are his full time parents.

LAWS:

To get approved for surrogacy the process of appointments and reports needed are very extensive, frustrating and include a lot of unnecessary box ticking.

A surrogacy agreement is needed and both parties need to see independent lawyers. This is a huge cost which we were happy to pay as we all thought the legal agreement was very important. Yet we were told by both lawyers that the agreement was not legally binding due to surrogacy not being commercial in Australia and that it was pretty much just a handshake agreement.

This was very hard to understand, the one thing that seems most important isn't actually legitimate. The other contradicting thing is that you HAD to get this legal work done to submit approval to ethics, you had to pay thousands to have this all done..but at the end of the day it isn't actually legally binding... This makes absolutely ZERO sense.

I could continue to write on but these are my 3 main points. I would really appreciate some correspondence and I really hope I have helped in making a positive change to the surrogacy laws. Please think of your young loved ones when making these changes, we are normal everyday people that just want to start a family, if the laws changed to make things easier and to give a little bit of financial reprieve it would make the world of difference.

Please allow a medicare rebate for surrogacy (this will save couples thousands). Please allow the baby's parents to be on the birth certificate from day one. This will save couples close to $10k, it will also solve a lot of other issues that arise including medicare card issues.

ABC Podcast: https://www.abc.net.au/listen/programs/newcastlecast/altruistic-surrogacy-pregnancy/104021102

ABC Article: https://www.abc.net.au/news/2024-06-26/altruistic-surrogacy-helps-woman-

without-uterus-become-mum/104016074

Kind Regards,

Amelia-Rose Crispin

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