From: [redacted]
To: Surrogacy
Subject: Submission on review of surrogacy laws
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Dear Sir/Madam,

I wish to voice my concern about the vaunted changes to the surrogacy laws in Australia.

At a time when countless babies are being aborted in this nation, others are "profiting" through unscrupulous commercial dealings with vulnerable women - using them as "baby factories" for those who can afford to obtain a baby through surrogacy.

We have a crisis of abuse in this nation - something we hear about every week. It's either the murder of a woman by a violent partner, or (as we saw in Victoria last week), the horrifying abuse of children in a childcare centre. Yet here we are, about to further complicate the issue by possibly softening the surrogacy laws in Australia.

We are constantly being told to "trust the science", and so research now tells us that the best basis for a family is a child to be born into a loving family with birth parents (ie a father and a mother) to care for that child.

To "buy" a child through paid surrogacy is tantamount to abuse of two persons - the surrogate mother who is being paid to rent out her womb, and the child who will be ripped from its birth mother and given to strangers. Even if an ovum from a woman, and the sperm from her husband, are used to "produce" a child, to have paid surrogacy is tantamount to "results based commerce".

Whilst I realise that this is a complicated and emotive issue, even if the ONLY issue addressed is how to reduce barriers to surrogacy arrangements in Australia, I feel that it is a step in the wrong direction.

Australia would be better served to encourage adoption of "unwanted" babies in this country - and perhaps stem the tide of abortions, rather than allowing domestic surrogacy.

I feel deeply sorry for couples who are unable to give birth naturally to their own child, but at no stage is it ever wise to pit the "wants" of adults against the "rights" of a child.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Drew (Mrs)

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