Australian Law Reform Commission: Adult Feedback

I am making this submission to contribute to the Australian Law Reform Commission's review of Australian surrogacy laws, policies, and practices.

1. I am writing about my experience

- (●) in Australia
- ( ) Overseas

2. I have experience as an

- ( ) Intended parent
- ( ) Egg Donor
- (●) Parent
- ( ) Surrogate

3. What are some good things about your experience of surrogacy?

- That surrogacy is an option for our son and daughter-in-law
- Their incredible friend and surrogate
- The level of care they received from their IVF doctor (Dr Alwyn Dunn)
- The medical facilities available both publicly and privately in Australia for both intended parents and their surrogate.
- How well their surrogate has been treated by all people involved in surrogacy

4. What were the difficulties you encountered?

Significant financial burden due to ongoing expenses from lawyers, IVF clinics, and mandatory counselling sessions.

Deep emotional distress watching my son be denied the rights and recognition of being a father, while someone else -- who did not wish to take on that role -- was automatically granted that title

5. Should there be more education about surrogacy? Why?

Absolutely — especially for anyone working in IVF clinics, including secretaries and administrative staff who are often the first point of contact for intended parents and fertility doctors.In our experience, it was almost always the administrative staff who failed to understand the rights of intended parents. Our son and daughter-in-law were repeatedly denied access to important medical information about pregnancies and miscarriages. Despite having

6. When a child is born through surrogacy, should their parents be legally recognised straight away? Explain why.

Yes.
Surrogates do not want to be referred to as the parents. This will also prevent uneducated hospital staff from treating intended parents as people trying to steal a baby.

7. What needs to be improved about surrogacy for Australians?

1. Extend Medicare rebates to intended parents undergoing IVF treatments and embryo transfers via surrogacy.

   Why: This would remove any confusion around eligibility for Medicare rebates and ensure equitable access to fertility treatments for those with the greatest

8. In Australia, surrogates and donors are not allowed to be paid. What do you think of that?

9. Is there anything else you want to share about surrogacy and the rules around it?