

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?

Understanding the process and how hard it is here in Australia to work, so believe it's so important to have a voice to try and make a change so people can have the opportunity to experience one of the best things in life is to have a child and share their life with

4. What were the difficulties you encountered?

Keeping my surrogate invested in the process and the journey as there were too many steps involved and I couldn't provide financial support for their time and effort.

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

I don't believe there needs to be more education about surrogacy but laws definitely need to change here in Australia

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

Explain why.

100% Intended parents should be legally recognised straight away! I cannot believe this is not law yet and you have to legally apply to adopt your child. As a single mum and it's my egg with donor sperm can't believe the child is not legally mine when born and the stress to deal with legally first fighting for your child is tough especially when you're doing it by yourself.

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

Intended parents to be recognised as parents legally from the begging of conception. Costs associated with legal fees, counselling, IVF. The freedom to provide financial support to the surrogate however the intended parents see fit to support the surrogate to provide such a lovely service

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

Not being able to pay a surrogate or donor limits people who really want to start a family unfortunately. More people would be able to have a family if this was possible. Which means more happy people

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

I truly believe all donor children should have access to the details of any children conceived by that donor so we don't have potential issues with incest in the future. It wasn't the child's decision so they need access to who their half siblings are. This is my biggest concern