[redacted]

11/7/2025

The Commissioner
Australian Law Reform Commission
PO Box 209
Flinders Lane
Victoria 8009
Email: surrogacy@alrc.gov.au

Dear Commissioner,

**SUBMISSION TO THE AUSTRALIAN LAW REFORM COMMISSION – REVIEW OF AUSTRALIA'S SURROGACY LAWS**

I am making this submission to contribute to the Australian Law Reform Commission's review of Australia's surrogacy laws. I am a parent through surrogacy. My wife and I live in Victoria and our surrogate lives in Queensland.

I have read the Issues Paper and have responded to the questions posed in the paper below.

I seek that my submission be published but de-identified.

1. If you or someone close to you has had personal experience of surrogacy, please describe:

I was an intending parent along with my wife. My wife had endometrial cancer and needed to have a hysterectomy. This left us with no other option but to turn to surrogacy and we were lucky enough to have created a good number of our own embryos. We were also lucky enough to find a surrogate and are now parents to our lovely little boy, [redacted]

2. What parts of your experience were positive?

We were finally able to become parents and make a really good friend along the way. It still amazes me that someone was willing to grow a baby for us!

3. What parts of your experience were negative?
There were a lot of hoops that had to be jumped through from the point of my wife's hysterectomy(absolute medical need for a surrogate) to actually implanting an embryo into our surrogate.
There were also some challenging times throughout the pregnancy, being so far away from our surrogate and having to deal with sometimes hormone fueled situations, which in the case of a normal pregnancy would hopefully be a lot easier to resolve.

4. What could be improved and how?
An independent body/group/business/agency or even the fertility clinics themselves that can streamline the process and deal with the medical and financial, meals or whatever else is a fair need of the surrogate whist the IP's maintain a good relationship with their surrogates.
As much as I'd like to see this be a free service, realistically money has to come from somewhere/someone. With this in mind and the actual cost of the whole surrogacy process, it would be worth paying for such a service to remove the worry of are we doing this right? Mostly everybody going through surrogacy has never done it before and it is extremely difficult to navigate, especially considering many will have gone through difficult times to get to the surrogacy start point, so does it really need to be that hard?

8. What do you think are the main barriers that prevent people from entering into surrogacy arrangements in Australia, and how could these be overcome?

Finding a surrogate as you are not allowed to advertise for one and then finding all of the steps needed to actually go through with the surrogacy arrangement.

An agency or some way of streamlining it all would be a beneficial option if people wanted to choose it.

Also it is important that if an agency were to be created to do this work, that the option for people to still navigate the system on their own should still be available.

9. Should there be eligibility criteria for surrogacy? If so, what should those requirements be?

Yes, there should be eligibility criteria.

If you have engaged in fertility treatment and or been deemed medically incapable of carrying a baby to full term due to a medical problem.

27. Should the law have a role in discouraging or prohibiting certain forms of surrogacy?

Yes

28. Do you think there is a need to improve awareness and understanding of surrogacy laws, policies, and practices?

Yes!

Thank you for considering my submission.

Yours Faithfully,

[redacted]