

Australian Law Reform Commission: Adolescent & Young 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 13 years old.

2. I was born via surrogacy:

- in Australia
 Overseas

3. I was born with the help of:

- Egg Donor Neither
 Sperm Donor
 Both

4. What are some good things about being born through surrogacy?

I was deeply wanted and loved even before I was born.

Surrogacy helped my gay parents have a family of their own.

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5. Describe any tricky or difficult times you've had because you were born through surrogacy?

Sometimes people ask awkward or personal questions about how I was born.

I have had to explain what surrogacy means to friends or classmates who don't understand it.

I sometimes wonder about the surrogate or how everything came together, and that can be confusing.

6. Should there be more education about surrogacy in schools and the media? Why?

Yes, there should be more education about surrogacy in schools and the media.

It helps people understand that all families are different but equally valid.

It reduces judgment, teasing, or awkward questions for kids born through surrogacy.

7. When a child is born through surrogacy, should their parents be legally recognised straight away (currently they are not)? Explain why.

Yes, parents should be legally recognised straight away when a child is born through surrogacy.

The parents planned, prepared, and are fully responsible for the child from the beginning.

Delaying legal recognition can cause stress and confusion for families.

8. In Australia, a surrogate is allowed to change their mind about handing over the baby to the parents. What do you think of that?

It's good because the surrogate has control over her body and feelings.

Sometimes feelings change after birth, so she should have a choice.

It protects the surrogates rights.

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

It's good because it keeps surrogacy and donation about helping others, not making money.

It helps protect women from being exploited or pressured to do it just for money.

It makes sure the focus is on kindness and support.

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

Surrogacy laws aim to protect everyone involved - the surrogate, the baby, and the parents.

Rules can be different in each Australian state, so it's important to know the local laws.

There are strict checks to make sure surrogacy is safe and fair, like medical and psychological tests