

From: David and Ruth Cox [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 July 2025 9:14 AM
To: Surrogacy
Subject: Two Voices Against Surrogacy Reform.

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Dear Australian Law Reform Commission,

As concerned parents and grandparents (in both instances, biologically, and also, in both instances, by courtesy, to those who are not our biological offspring), we are writing to express our strong opposition to the legalisation of surrogacy in Australia.

Research shows that children, overall, thrive better when raised in a family with their biological father and mother. We believe in marriage between a man and a woman, and that out of a lifelong, loving commitment to one another, are borne children who have a greater chance of experiencing what family was intended to be - a safe, loving, morally-nurturing foundation created to grow them to secure, adult-level maturity.

The role of the father and mother, in the first instance, is about giving to others. Surrogacy, on the other hand, is primarily focussed on self, and even if paid for, rarely doesn't involve the exploitation of others, primarily the woman who carries the child. We have friends who are Nepalese, and they have told us of cases in India, where Indian women, through great financial hardship, choose to become surrogate mothers. This involves the surrogate mother being required to live for nine months, in a residential facility (to monitor the pregnancy), wherein she does not see her own children or husband for the duration of the pregnancy. And the compensation for her surrogacy..... sometimes as little as \$500.00. One then asks the question, "Who then, is receiving the significant sum paid by the person seeking the child?"

Each human being has the right to be raised by their biological parents. Parenthood is a privilege, not a right, and with that privilege, comes enormous responsibilities....children are not commodities to be purchased. Children are not commodities to be created through donor sperm, eggs, or wombs. Children are to be the fruit of a loving, lifetime commitment between a man and a woman.

One could also reference trafficking of women, forced into becoming surrogate mothers, and even a convicted paedophile gaining access to surrogacy. Once a fundamental shift in such legislation takes place, it will become the thin edge of a wedge, opening the door to corruption in many forms, with the greatest victims being the children created, and denied the fundamental right of every child....to be raised by their biological parents.

That said:

With respect to question 2 of the inquiry, I believe that the reform principles should prioritize the interests of all children and ensure the rights of women are protected from sexual and reproductive abuse.

Regarding question 3, Australia should prohibit all forms of surrogacy, especially commercial surrogacy.

Questions 16, 17, and 21 highlight the importance of keeping international and commercial surrogacy illegal due to the rights of the child and birth mother. It is crucial to protect the child's right to know their biological parent.

Additionally, surrogacy advertising should be prohibited, as stated in question 13.

With great respect, we ask you to please seriously consider the weight of responsibility that falls upon your shoulders in reviewing this serious moral issue, the outcome of which will, one way, or another, have profound consequences for the individuals directly affected, as well as our nation, as a whole, for generations to come!

Yours sincerely,
David and Ruth Cox

A solid black rectangular box used to redact the signature of David and Ruth Cox.

Sent from my Galaxy