

From: Jareth Spyker [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 10 July 2025 2:20 AM
To: Surrogacy
Subject: Concerns Regarding Proposed Surrogacy Law Reforms

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Dear Australian Law Reform Commission,

I am writing as a concerned Australian citizen and Christian to urge you to reject proposed reforms that would expand surrogacy practices in Australia, particularly those that may lead to the legalization of commercial surrogacy.

As a Christian, I believe that all human life is sacred and that the dignity of both women and children must be protected. Surrogacy, especially in its commercial form, risks commodifying human life by treating babies as products and exploiting vulnerable women, often those in financial distress, by turning their bodies into a means of profit. This practice raises significant ethical concerns and may conflict with Australia's obligations under international treaties, such as the Declaration of the Rights of the Child, which emphasizes that the best interests of children must be paramount.

The current allowance of altruistic surrogacy in Australia, where surrogates are reimbursed only for reasonable expenses, provides a framework that seeks to balance ethical considerations. However, expanding surrogacy, particularly through commercial arrangements, could exacerbate risks of exploitation and human trafficking, as evidenced by cases like the 2023 raid on the Mediterranean Fertility Institute in Crete, where 169 women were trafficked, many serving as surrogates for Australian clients. Such incidents highlight the dangers of loosening restrictions on surrogacy.

Moreover, the best interests of children must remain the top priority. Evidence suggests that children thrive best when raised by a mother and father in a stable family environment. Surrogacy arrangements, particularly those conducted overseas, often leave children in legal limbo, with uncertain parentage and citizenship status, which undermines their rights and well-being. The fact that 361 babies born through overseas surrogacy were granted Australian citizenship in 2023–24, despite commercial surrogacy being illegal, sends a troubling message that these laws are not enforced, potentially encouraging further exploitation.

I respectfully urge the ALRC to prioritize the protection of women and children by maintaining the prohibition on commercial surrogacy and strengthening regulations to ensure that all surrogacy practices align with Australia's human rights obligations. Any reforms should focus on safeguarding vulnerable individuals from exploitation and ensuring that the rights of children are upheld above the desires of adults.

Thank you for considering my submission. I trust that the ALRC will approach this inquiry with the sensitivity and nuance required to protect the dignity and rights of all involved.

Sincerely,

[REDACTED]