

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 9 July 2025 2:41 PM
To: Surrogacy
Subject: ALRC Surrogacy Review submission

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Dear Commissioners,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Commission's Issues Paper. I write to urge the ALRC to reject any proposal that would permit commercial surrogacy in Australia.

1. Commercial surrogacy commodifies women and children

Treating pregnancy as a service and babies as deliverables turns human bodies and lives into marketable resources. This "entitlement mentality" reduces mothers to "mere natural resources to be used and exploited by the well-off." Such commodification is fundamentally at odds with the dignity owed to every person.

2. It preys on economically vulnerable women

Experience overseas shows that financially secure women do not rent their wombs; the burden falls almost exclusively on those who need money. Legalising payment would create a financial incentive structure that targets low-income women, amplifying existing inequalities.

3. Serious health risks often hidden from public view

Gestational surrogacy involves powerful hormones, invasive embryo transfers and pregnancies that carry higher rates of pre-eclampsia, haemorrhage and even maternal death. Documented cases show surrogate mothers pressured to abort ("selective reduction") or carry dangerous multiple pregnancies. No amount of contractual language can erase these clinical realities.

4. Irreparable loss of the maternal bond for the child

Modern neuroscience underscores the importance of uninterrupted bonding from womb to infancy. Commercial surrogacy deliberately severs this bond, compelling babies to sacrifice the continuity of the maternal relationship in order to satisfy adult desire. Children's interests not adult preferences must remain paramount.

5. Adoption remains a life-affirming alternative

Thousands of children at home and abroad still wait for permanent families. Rather than engineering new pathways to buy newborns, policy should promote the adoption of these children in need.

These risks are not just theoretical and have been realised in the recent conflict in Ukraine:

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-08-20/ukraines-commercial-surrogacy-industry-leaves-disaster/11417388>

Whilst Australia is not in a conflict, the risks above follow commercial surrogacy where it goes and cannot be sufficiently mitigated

Australia's current prohibition on commercial surrogacy protects women and children by keeping pregnancy outside the marketplace. I respectfully ask the Commission to:

Retain the ban on commercial surrogacy and reinforce penalties for brokers who facilitate paid arrangements.

Strengthen oversight of "altruistic" surrogacy to ensure it remains truly non-commercial.

Promote ethical adoption reforms that place existing children in loving, permanent homes.

I trust the Commission will side with the most vulnerable, women at risk of exploitation and children yet unborn, and recommend against any commercialisation of surrogacy in Australia.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Please de-identify this submission for publishing purposes.

Yours sincerely,

[REDACTED]