

I understand the ALRC is contemplating rules on human surrogacy and wish to express my concern that any form of commercial surrogacy represents the exploitation of women's reproductive systems and bodies for profit. It represents an experiment with likely unintended consequences not only for the child but for all involved, with wider negative social repercussions. As a male, I cannot begin to imagine the pathos relating to the spiritual, emotional and physical bonds that will be broken as in the process of the surrogate surrendering the child. The rights of a newborn baby to be breastfed naturally and properly weaned is another issue entirely. I think that any review should also attempt an understanding of the spiritual basis of motherhood and surrogacy, though I fear that our materialistic society has largely shunned such notions.