

Changes to the Surrogacy Laws of WA - Submissions called for

Luke Smith [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, March 12, 2018 10:36 PM

To: HRTSR

To Whom It May Concern

Re: Submission in relation to the Independent review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 and Surrogacy Act 2008

I went through 3 years of IVF (ICSI) to Create my beautiful boy . My health issues put both myself and my baby at risk as I knew it would , But I felt like I had no other option but to go down this path. Knowing full well one or both of us might not make it through. Given a clear path to surrogacy I would have chosen this option in a heartbeat.

I feel like getting to the point of making the decision to have a baby through surrogacy is not one you make lightly. Physically , emotionally and financially the process of IVF is debilitating , it truly stops your world.it breaks people on a daily basis.

Woman are going through needless heartbreak , needless risks and absolute gut wrenching years of pain all because there is no black and white surrogacy laws. We have come along way and I hope we can go further with the changes needed.

Below are the recommendations that I feel deserved to be changed:

- **Encourage more surrogates:** There needs to be a supportive structure in place so that surrogates feel that the option is there for them to be a surrogate, that they will be protected and assisted in every way as they are angels walking on Earth giving someone an absolute miracle. If this supportive structure is in place, and made public and promoted in the community with all the positives it can entail, then perhaps more surrogates will step forward. And with this, then maybe we would then be able to have a sort of surrogate database. Those needing a surrogate could have access to those volunteering, rather than luck of the draw via an unregulated Facebook page.
- **Clearer path on how to go about surrogacy in WA:** I am at a loss with how to go about it in WA but there is a severe lack of information and support available to take this option as an Intended Parent. And after everything I have been through, shouldn't there be support on this path available? Clear and understandable information available online of step by step how to go about surrogacy in WA?
- **A faster process:** From what I have learnt, to do surrogacy in WA I am looking at 2 years before the first frozen transfer into my surrogate. That timeframe is ridiculous. After all we have already been through, this timeframe is unacceptable. I have researched other countries and other states in Australia, and in some countries and states you are able to have that first transfer within months not years.
- **Recognise same sex marriage laws:** WA surrogacy laws need to reflect this progress in our country. Male same sex couples should have the same rights as female same sex couples so that they too can consider surrogacy to grow their family. I think about my nephews and friends who have had sons, what if in the future they were to enter into a same sex marriage, I would like them to have the same rights as everyone to access surrogacy in WA.

You are welcome to contact me if you would like me to provide further information.

Yours sincerely

Kellie Smith

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19/03/2018

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