

SUBJECT: SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT 1991 AND THE SURROGACY ACT 2008

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To: HRTSR

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SUBJECT: SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT 1991 AND THE SURROGACY ACT 2008

I wish to make a personal submission addressing certain aspects of the Terms of Reference, which I reproduce as headings below.

“Research and experimentation on gametes, eggs in the process of fertilisation and embryos.” and “Genetic testing of embryos, saviour siblings, mitochondrial donation and gene editing technology.”

Many Australians, including myself, my family and members of my Church, recognize that every human person has intrinsic value, that human life begins at conception and should be protected at every stage of life. Accordingly, any research, experimentation or testing on embryos or “eggs in the process of fertilization” which threatens life or viability should not be permitted under the *Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991* or elsewhere.

“The need for continued prohibition on commercial surrogacy”, “international commercial surrogacy arrangements” or “international trade in gametes and embryos”.

Every child should enjoy the right to life, dignity and respect. Commercial surrogacy (whether domestic or international) and all trade in gametes or embryos is entirely inconsistent with these rights of the child and should continue to be illegal under the *Surrogacy Act 2008*. There is abundant evidence now available, particularly from overseas experience, that separating childbearing from motherhood leads to many problems for biological mother and child. The child becomes a traded commodity, rather than a human person to be respected and loved. The mother is treated as a service provider, rather than a mother able to love and nurture her biological child.

I wish to add that surrogacy is entirely different to the praiseworthy institution of adoption (which is, or should be, designed to protect the welfare of the child unable to be cared for by biological parents), whereas surrogacy at its core focusses on the desires of adults.

Commercial surrogacy and all trading of embryos or gametes should remain illegal.

Though I have used a prepared letter, I have read it thoroughly and think that this best suits what I feel and what I want to say.

My heart is very heavy at the thought of what these laws will give and take away from the basic right to life.

Thank you for this opportunity to have my submission considered.

Yours faithfully

Janice Burdinat
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