

To whom it may concern,

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

I wanted to make a submission to the independent review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 and Surrogacy Act because I believe that loving and committed people who want to have a family should be enabled to do so without prejudice and in the spirit of equality. Australia is becoming a more inclusive country and it is making us more united as a people and stronger than ever.

I am a privileged woman, married to a man with two girls that we conceived without intervention or complications. This does not mean we are more qualified or are making a greater contribution to the community than same sex couples wishing to start a family.

So in the spirit of a truly inclusive, diverse and great community please review this outdated Act.

My recommendations are:

Widening the compensation provisions for altruistic surrogates to ensure they receive reasonable compensation but not to a level that creates financial inducement (including financial compensation for travel, medical, psychological, loss of income).

Allowing anyone in a continuous de facto relationship from the conception of the child to be recognised as the father.

Allowing pre-surrogacy agreements to be recognised in law (eliminating uncertainty post birth).

Allowing access for children to information on their surrogate and egg donor.

A governing to manage surrogacy arrangements in WA, with an administrative appeal process, keeping the process simple and cost effectively.

Provide a guiding hand – government to provide the support for surrogates, their families and the intending parents, to move through the surrogacy process (or allow other entities to provide that support). Currently it is up to the persistence of the surrogate and her intending family to get through the many steps required.

Communicate more effectively – create a plain English version of the Acts that can help guide the non-lawyers amongst us.

Equal rights- that same sex couples should have equal rights under the law to access surrogacy.

Legal Rights- that same sex families should have retrospective legal rights in respect to changes to the law surrounding parenting

Yours sincerely



Anita Bennetts

