



**Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy
Committee**

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Mrs Jann Stuckey MP
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The Queensland Parliament appointed the Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy Committee to investigate and report on the regulation of altruistic surrogacy in Queensland. The committee, which commenced on 26 February 2008, will report to Parliament in September 2008.

Media Release

PUBLIC HEARINGS ON SURROGACY

A Parliamentary Committee will hold public hearings to further investigate possible changes to surrogacy laws in Queensland.

The Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy Committee will hold these hearings on 7-8 July 2008 at Parliament House in Brisbane.

All members of the public are welcome to attend and observe these hearings.

Committee Chair, Mrs Linda Lavarch MP, said that these hearings were the next step in the committee's deliberations following the call for written submissions which recently closed.

"The committee received 111 written submissions and I wish to thank all of the individuals and groups across Queensland who took part in this process," Mrs Lavarch said.

The hearings will be addressed by key stakeholders in the surrogacy issue as well as people who made written submissions to the committee.

"The public hearings will commence with a presentation on traditional Torres Strait Islander 'adoptions' as the committee has learned that there is an ancient and continuous practice of surrogacy in Queensland," Mrs Lavarch said.

Others to address the public hearings include: the former Chief Justice of the Family Law Court, Alistair Nicholson; members of the Kirkman family, the first in Australia to undertake IVF surrogacy; a range of church and community groups; professionals and researchers working in the area; and individuals who have direct experience of infertility.

"The committee will give careful consideration to all views and evidence put forward," Mrs Lavarch said.

Members of the public interested in attending can contact the committee secretariat by calling (07) 3406 7310 or 1800 025 598 during office hours by 3 July 2008 or emailing surrogacy.committee@parliament.qld.gov.au.