

Media Release

QUEENSLANDERS SPEAK ON SURROGACY

Queenslanders have until 13 June to tell the Parliament whether they want altruistic surrogacy decriminalised.

The Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy Committee has received a number of submissions to its investigation, but expects many more people to have a say before the closing date.

Committee Chair and former Attorney-General, Mrs Linda Lavarch MP said the committee will consider all views put forward by the public in deciding whether to recommend lifting the criminal penalties from the *Surrogate Parenthood Act*.

Mrs Lavarch said, "We're considering all views on the issue – the views of people who want altruistic surrogacy decriminalised because maybe it is their only way to have a child and the views of other people who think surrogacy should be actively discouraged."

The committee is undertaking research and asking for advice from people with expertise, experience and interest in the matters under investigation to aid its deliberations.

"Surrogacy is already occurring in other states, but each state regulates it differently. If we decriminalise, we want the people of Queensland to help us find the best approach", Mrs Lavarch said.

"Some babies are undoubtedly being born through surrogacy in Queensland. If we recognise that, it may be that we need a special mechanism to clarify the legal status of these families and children."

The closing date for submissions is 13 June 2008.

The committee will report to the Parliament by 30 September 2008.

Submissions may be made in writing or online at the committee's website at www.parliament.qld.gov.au/surrogacy.

For a copy of the committee's issues paper and guidelines on how to make a submission visit the committee's website.

The committee will consider a number of issues including: imposing regulatory criteria on parties to surrogacy arrangements, legal parentage issues, the relevance of assisted reproductive technology and donor registers and a child's right to information about their birth history.



Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy Committee

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Mrs Rosemary Menkens MP
Member for Burdekin

Members

Ms Vicky Darling MP
Member for Sandgate
Mr Chris Foley MP
Member for Maryborough
Mr Evan Moorhead MP
Member for Waterford
Mrs Jann Stuckey MP
Member for Currumbin
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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.