

Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2008 9:34 AM

To: Surrogacy Committee

Subject: Online Submission - Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy Committee

SUBMISSION FROM

Name : Deryck Thomas

SUBMISSION

Should the legal restrictions and criminal penalties against altruistic surrogacy be removed from the *Surrogate Parenthood Act 1988 (Qld)*?

All restrictions should be kept in place. We are in danger of creating a society in which humans are trafficable commodities like breeding stock to cattlemen - where e.g. milk production is a highly sought-after trait for the dairy farmer. Aldus Huxley's "Brave New World" should be a warning to us to avoid the mechanisation and government manipulation of a society.

Should the Queensland Government play a role in regulating altruistic surrogacy arrangements in Queensland?

If the answer to the above is "No", then it follows that this question is obviated. The use of the word "Altruistic" is a smokescreen at best - selfless concern for the welfare of others! While I know the pain suffered by childless couples, adoption is always open provided we are not aborting babies at a rate close to 100,000 per year. The way semen is collected leaves a lot to be desired.

What other issues should be addressed by the Government?

The Government needs to realise its main function is to serve the people who elected it for the purposes of military defense, taxation, domestic security but not the manipulation of the genetic makeup of its population.

What criteria, if any, should the commissioning parent/s and/or surrogate have to meet before entering into an altruistic surrogacy arrangement?

Having said that surrogacy should not go ahead I need to point out that in 40+ years of working with the young, relationships are the most important issue in a child's life. even adopted kids have a reasonable start in life. People who have not been told the truth about themselves we have noticed tend to have other emotional and social disorders. Surrogacy smudges the issues to a greater extent. The birth certificate would say: No parents, just sperm, egg and uterus donors!

Should criteria for commissioning parents be similar to that for adoptive parents?

No - they do not need to exist at all.

What role should a genetic relationship between the child and the commissioning parent/s and/or surrogate play in an altruistic surrogacy arrangement?

A great confusion is contained here - one donor, who's donated about three times a week, would potentially have thousands of progeny; with which is he supposed to have a genetic relationship? He has simply done it for the money (or other reasons).

Should at least one of the commissioning parents have a genetic relationship with the child?

No

Should the surrogate be able to use her gametes or should she have no genetic relationship to the child?

No, there is no need to get into AI in the first place.

What legal rights and responsibilities should be imposed upon the commissioning parent/s and/or surrogate?

Any legislation in this area is going to lead to clamouring from minority groups such as same-sex couplings who are basically selfishly motivated and do not consider the needs of a child to be brought up by a mother and a father.

Should the definition of altruistic surrogacy only include pre-conception agreements in Queensland?

If this thing goes ahead, yes. Otherwise the question is irrelevant.

If infertility and/or health risk to the mother or child is a criterion for surrogacy, how should these criteria be defined?

You can't justify something which is not in itself justifiable.

How well does the transfer of legal parentage in a surrogacy arrangement fit with contemporary approaches in family law and adoption?

I am unqualified to comment here.

How important is it for there to be a mechanism for the transfer of legal parentage that is specific to surrogacy arrangements? What would this be?

Don't go down this path in the first place.

What are the consequences for children born of a surrogacy arrangement in Queensland of maintaining the status quo?

They are severe in any case. Adoption has its own set of problems. Introduce surrogacy and you have an exponential

Should the surrogate's rights to be automatically recorded as the child's parent on the birth certificate and to approve legal transfer after birth remain if she has no genetic connection to the child?

You see what a messy tangle we get into when we by-pass the natural order of things. Unless we breed a new type of woman, who has no natural connection to the child growing in her womb for 9 months but who is willing to give up all that pregnancy entails (in

terms of changes to the woman's body) and possibly also for monetary gain to hand this child over to others is beyond normal understanding.

What rights should a child born through an altruistic surrogacy arrangement have to access information relating his or her genetic parentage? Who should hold this information?

Every child has a right to know about their origins - however I would not like to have to explain to my child that some man or other masturbated into a test tube and the ejaculate was frozen and then brought to an egg in either a dish or a woman's womb and you are the result.

What, if any, other matters should be considered in the regulation of this issue?

All these questions have presupposed that the legislation is a forgone conclusion. That hasn't made answerin them easy. The other matter for consideration is subsumed in the first question - no government should assume the right to legislate in favour of surrogacy.

Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2008 10:58 AM

To: Surrogacy Committee

Subject: Altruistic Surrogacy

Dear Mrs Lavarch, Ms Darling, Mr Foley, Mrs Mentens, Mr Moorhead, Mrs Stuckey & Mr Wettenhall

I have already answered questions on the website regarding surrogacy and expressed my opposition to any move or decision which would lead to changing the presnt law.

I could not make decions as to what to do with a major issue viz.legal challenges as to who is the parent. Sperm donor, egg donor, carrying woman, caring couple? potentially 5 'parents'.

I suggested that for less than altruistic reasons singles and same-sex couples should not have access.

The genetic mess children would be in would cause even more stress and less security.

In the so-called Third World where deal a lot with communities, there is do doubt where their parentage is. There are no blurred relationships there- even when a child is given by its mother to be brought up by another family member because she feels she can't cope one way or another. The whole process of marriage, conception, pregnancy, birth, mother- and fatherhood. We get our security by knowing who we are through a 'traditional' culture of proper human relationships.

Please don't get our state (possibly also nation) embroiled in even yet further legislation of a dubious kind.

Sincerely

Deryck Thomas