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To: Surrogacy Committee

Subject: Online Submission - Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy Committee

SUBMISSION FROM

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SUBMISSION

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

No, it is very important that the bond between mother and child is protected, and the breaking of this bond is not aided by the legalising of altruistic surrogacy. Further to the breaking of a bond between mother and child is the following problems: 1. Legal challenges as to who is the parent; 2. Singles and same-sex couples having access to altruistic surrogacy, allowing a child to grow up in a less than ideal family structure; 3. Potential genetic bewilderment for children; 4. Potential for blurred family relationships and disruption to relationship links between marriage, conception, gestation, birth and motherhood, which are important to human identity.

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

Yes, the Queensland Government should oppose the legalising of altruistic surrogacy so that it does not have to regulate the problems after its legalisation.

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

I am apposed to legalising altruistic surrogacy based on the above in question 1.

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

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

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

No, it should include all types of altruistic surrogacy, including transfer to a surrogate mother after conception.

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

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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 legalise it and it wont be a problem.

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?

This question is an excellent example of how fuzzy a child's genetic/family history can be, and that this will definately have a negative affect on a child.

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?

This question is an excellent example of how fuzzy a child's genetic/family history can be, and that this will definately have a negative affect on a child.

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

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