

Sent: Wednesday, 4 June 2008 10:36 PM

To: Surrogacy Committee

Subject: Online Submission - Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy Committee

SUBMISSION FROM

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SUBMISSION

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

Yes

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

As well as the other matters the Issues Paper discusses, I wish to raise another distinction which should perhaps form the basis for a criterion. If a child already exists (whether born or only conceived and still in gestation), surrogacy is like adoption - there are many issues, but we know how to handle them, and dealing with them is better than having an abortion. However if the child is conceived with the purpose of going to someone else, that's different. The only thing that might outweigh the complications (eg the child seeking out birth parents or being confused over one's identity) is the commissioning parents' desire for a child, and that appears to be putting their interests ahead of the child's. Of course, people might lie and say the arrangement was made after the conception where really it was made before. But how these set ups usually work, especially where arrangements are made to select certain persons to be egg/sperm donors, would tend to make the lie difficult to sustain.

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

Yes

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

No, not only pre-conception. Also reconsider the basis for the ban on private adoptions, since in surrogacy there can sometimes be arrangements between people who know each other, not just someone who acts as a surrogate but is otherwise unknown to the commissioning parents. As long as there is a process to check criteria are met, why not allow private adoptions? What difference in principle is there between adoption and surrogacy?