

**Sent:** Thursday, 5 June 2008 3:35 PM

**To:** Surrogacy Committee

**Subject:** Online Submission - Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy Committee

## **SUBMISSION**

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

The Surrogacy legal restrictions and criminal penalties, should remain as is and not be removed in any manner. Human beings have a natural right to: - 1. Have a mother (woman) and father (man) when they come into this world. 2. To know who their biological mother and father are. 3. To have the best possible chance available to them of have their biological mother and father to raise them. 4. When this is not possible through death or separation, both parents have a biological natural responsibility to care for that child. 5. Any alteration to that goes against the natural and allows for deep scars and emotional turmoil that can affect the life of that person and all around in many negative ways. Statistics would show already, (if they were taken) and would definitely show in years to come, if the restrictions and criminal penalties were lifted on the Surrogate Parenthood Act 1988 (Qld)? 6. One couples happiness to have a child should not take precedence over the negative impact and emotional scars that would be caused by this to the generations down the line. How would they provide information on the census form??? 7. Right decisions, take Strong convictions for the benefit of all mankind... Make the right decision and do not allow any change to this act.

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

see notes on first answer

### **What other issues should be addressed by the Government?**

Give all aid possible to those who have unwanted pregnancies to go full term and deliver a healthy baby. Provide counselling that would allow them to decide whether to keep the baby and raise it themselves or adopt the baby out. The government already has in place much help for the single parent. Some of which may have preferred to have the freedom of not raising a child. Provide good opportunity for babies to be adopted out (with incentives and with all biological details available to all stake holders) so that couples desiring the privilege of experiencing parenting can gain it more readily in a more natural way.

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

see notes on first answer

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

see notes above

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

see notes above

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

see notes above

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

see notes above

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

see notes above

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

see notes above

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

see notes above

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

see notes above

### **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?**

see notes above

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

see notes above

**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?**

see note above

**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?**

see notes above

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

see notes above