

Sent: Thursday, 5 June 2008 4:02 PM

To: Surrogacy Committee

Subject: altruistic surrogacy

To the Queensland Surrogacy Committee,

I am writing to share briefly my concern that altruistic surrogacy would be legalised.

For many years I was a supporter of the concept of surrogacy. Indeed, as I have watched many friends grapple with the issue of infertility, I not only supported the concept but even discussed seriously with my husband whether to offer this to friends of ours. In thinking through this area at not merely a philosophical but also a personal level, I began to do some deeper research beyond the emotive articles in women's magazines.

In brief, I decided that despite my own personal desire to help out dear friends, the risks of surrogacy outweighed the benefits – perhaps not in that individual case but certainly at a societal level.

I trust that individuals more learned and articulate than myself will outline in detail the difficulties and risks associated with surrogacy, even at an altruistic level. For myself, I simply wish to register my serious concern over legalising a practice in which multiple adults have a genetic or familial stake in a child's life. Yes, it *could* work beautifully and may do in many situations. Unfortunately, the potential for great confusion, heartache and harm in many other situations tips the balance for me.

My heart continues to be moved by couples struggling with infertility. However, rather than legalising surrogacy in any form, I would like to see our state and our nation working to make adoption an easier and more readily available option. This includes both addressing the issue of overseas adoption and also fostering a stance that encourages people to act altruistically, as it were, for 9 months and bring a baby into the world for adoption, rather than seeking an abortion. Our society's childless couples could have their arms filled with children if our society was not so willing to turn a blind eye to the thousands that are killed each year. I am aware that adoption has its own complications but at least in adoption we are providing a better option of family for a child already conceived, not conceiving a child with the potential for great (adverse) legal and relational consequences.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Samantha Bryan