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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)*?

Most definitely!

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

AS with anything potentially effecting the life of a child of course there should be some clear parameters around the regulations involved. These should of course take into account the best interests of the child but they also need to be realistic, logical and understanding of the complexities and emotions involved. In regards to minimising intrusion I suppose in essence yes although I think when a couple and a surrogate choose to head down this path there perceived levels of intrusion may be a little different - on one hand they are opening there lives and bodies to all means and manner of tests etc but also with this comes the feeling that everyman and his dog has a say or opinion on what to those lucky ones comes naturally - both sides need to be carefully considered. Protecting all involve is essential - although in my mind I have done a lot of personal work around the thoughts of becoming a surrogate and what this may mean I would still advocate strongly for extensive counseling and support for all parties involved. To minimize conflict is an essential where possible and I think this comes down to the old adage of Prior and proper Preparation Prevents Poor Performance - get all the ground work with counseling, scenarios etc done and dusted before anything begins but it must also be part of the plan that emotions will be running high for all involved.

What other issues should be addressed by the Government?

Some sort of help towards the costs involved would be greatly appreciated it is not always wealthy people that this happens to but that does not mean they will not be the most wonderful parents - maybe something means tested. Something that also helps them support the surrogate as potentially this person will be not working for a period of time and will have hospital and doctor costs also.

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

I believe if the egg and sperm are not that of the surrogate (as is in many cases) that child should be that of the biological parents not that of the surrogate - the surrogate is essentially just an incubator!

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

some similarities but I believe the adoptive one already discriminates against some of the most wonderful parents - how can someone say if you are over a certain age or weight bracket you would no longer be a good parent or if you have had an illness - there is no such restrictions on any other person who wants to parent! its ridiculous

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

See above in terms of people not having to adopt what is essentially there own child!

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

Of course this would be optimal and I think that if it can be that the surrogate has no connection - even if its another surrogates egg that would really help make the lines clear - or course as much of the couple whos child it will be would alswyas be best but is not always possible!

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

personally I think things would be much clearer with no relationship but that may be a very personal choice

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?

NO!!!!

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?

All this information should be avialable!

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

be considerate be understanding - acknowledge that this is not a process I thynk anyone would choose to have to go through!