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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)?

These restrictions should be removed as they are outdated and biased against people who cannot for various reasons have children in the normal way. In a perfect world every couple would be able to have children when and if they decide to do so. Unfortunately things do not always go according to plan and some couples are not able to do this. With today's technology these problems can be overcome with surrogacy being one of them. If someone eg a family member is completely willing to be a surrogate this should be allowed. They are consenting adults and can make up their own minds without government interference.

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

As long as all the parties sign some sort of agreement to say they are happy and willing to take part that should be enough.

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

Reproductive technology should be available to families wanting this procedure. Hospital expenses for the surrogate should be the same under Medicare as for any other pregnancy.

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

Agreements should be signed by all parties involved

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

A doctor's certificate could be used here

What rights should a child born through an altruistic surrogacy arrangement have to access information relating to his or her genetic parentage? Who should hold this information?

Parents should have the right to tell the child at a time they see fit of the circumstances of their birth

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

Most couples who have problems conceiving are average working families so it can be a very expensive procedure. In some cases some people just would not be able to afford to consider this option. IVF and surrogacy should not be so expensive that working families cannot afford to take part in.