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Mrs. J. M. Robinson

June 6, 2008

Dear Ms. Linda Lavarch,

My name is Jodie Robinson and my husbands name is Peter. We, like so many other couples met later in life. We have been married for 6 years, and now in our 30's, have been trying to have our own family, without much success.

My mother, is who wrote to you originally, asking for someone to listen, and change the laws to help couples like us have their own families.

My mother, seeing first hand, the emotional trials we have been going through, and finding out of so many other couples going through the same battle with a dimming light at the end of the tunnel, felt compelled to write to you, to try to help, not only us, but many other couples out there, with no other options left.

Peter and I have seen personally, a small portion of reality, in exactly how many couples out there in Qld. are having difficulty trying to have their own family.

We attended an Adoption Seminar in Brisbane on July 8, 2006, and were blown away when we came together with at least 60 other couples, all faced with the same issues. This was just 1 seminar, there were 16 seminars spread through out Qld. over 12 months. When you look at the possibilities, that if at least 60 couples attend each seminar, then that's at least 900 couples all wanting to have their own family. And why wouldn't they? It's human nature to want to extend your family beyond husband and wife and nurture each other. But as you are aware, in 04/05 13 infants were placed for adoption, and 05/06 only 8 infants were placed for adoption. With younger single mums now choosing to keep their babies, this means fewer and fewer babies will continue to be placed up for adoption. Which means, that's an awful lot of couples out there, that have to come to terms with the fact that they will probably never get to experience having their own families.

We have also seen a Herbalist at the Gold Coast, and again were astounded at the figures of hundreds of couples seeking help, to try every last effort to try to have their own baby.

I am writing this letter to you, to try to make you aware of how many couples out there, like us, are running out of time and options to have their own families.

My husband and I have tried just about everything there is, from acupuncture, homeopathies, naturopaths, diets and more diets. We discovered I had endometriosis, and after surgery to rectify this, still no luck. I had given up work to try to take the stress out of my life and now we have been on IVF for 3 years.

I had worked in Child Care since 1988, since I was 17 and had always enjoyed the interactions and bonds you develop with young children. I saw the Mums and Dads drop off and pick up their children and I see the special bonds that reside in that family, and I took for granted that I'll have that one day. But now, after trying so many fertility treatments, I see families come and go and I see those special bonds more now in everything they do, and I fear that I may never get to experience that.

For us, as for many couples who can create embryos but just can't seem to create a viable pregnancy, IVF Surrogacy could be the only option left.

After reading the Issue Paper of Investigation into Altruistic Surrogacy, on the internet, regarding the Qld Parliaments statement in 1988 that Surrogacy was "Dehumanising to use and pay another human being to reproduce", I spoke to many women I know who have already had their own families about this topic, and none of them felt in no way that it would be "dehumanising" in fact they stated that they would be humbled to be able to give the gift of life to a couple who could not conceive, and that they wouldn't expect any payment. That may have been the public consensus in 1988, but it is no longer that way that it is felt now.

I also feel so sad for the many couples who would have been pinning all their hopes and dreams on the surrogacy Act being changed in 2001, only to hear that it was felt "inappropriate and unhelpful to involve the justice system in this intensely private matter between relatives and friends". Yes it is private, and there are a lot of emotions involved, but when you have done and tried everything you can to have your own baby, who else is there to turn to for help. I know that relatives and friends watching couples go through this emotional trauma, want to put themselves out there, just to help.

I am sure that with the right information and the proper counseling, for both the commissioning parents and the surrogates, there will be the most rewarding positive outcomes, which will make dreams come true.

I hope you will give this the consideration it deserves, Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jodie Robinson". The ink is dark and the writing is fluid, with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mrs. Jodie Robinson.