

Mansfield Electorate Office

Sent: Monday, 23 June 2008 10:39 AM
To: mansfield@queenslandlaborteam.com
Subject: Surrogacy in Qld.

Dear Phil,

Having just heard of the upcoming report of The (Queensland) Altruistic Surrogacy Committee, (too late to make any submission), I must comment on this issue.

To allow surrogacy in any form creates a situation in which numerous adults have a biological and legal stake in a child's life. It is simply not in the best interests of society to allow arrangements for a child to be conceived and born into such difficult and complex scenarios. It would be possible for one child to have up to five 'parents' – the birth mother, the intended parent couple, and the genetic father and genetic mother (if the child was conceived using donor sperm and donor ovum). Blurring of relationships, and the disruption of the natural links between marriage, conception, gestation, birth, and parenthood, would undermine the sense of human identity and could cause psychological issues for the child as he / she reaches adulthood.

Further, when I was licensed as a marriage celebrant, it was regarded by our laws as imperative to check out if there could be any close degree of consanguinity, with probably adverse effect on the health of children, and therefore on our health budget. All the efforts currently under way to find alternatives to marriage and parenthood open the door to the inheriting of genetic defects. We are treading on dangerous ground here, and playing with human lives yet unborn, and our next generation.

I trust these principles have been made clear to the Committee, and if not, that Parliament will do so,

Sincerely,

John H. (Jock) Butterss.

26/06/2008