



Speech by

Hon. Cameron Dick

MEMBER FOR GREENSLOPES

Hansard Thursday, 29 October 2009

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT

Altruistic Surrogacy

Hon. CR DICK (Greenslopes—ALP) (Attorney-General and Minister for Industrial Relations) (10.05 am): Existing laws in Queensland prevent couples from using altruistic surrogacy as a last resort option to create a family. This is a situation that the Bligh government is determined to address. As part of our commitment to resolving this issue, in August 2009 the government released for public comment a position paper outlining our reforms to the law relating to surrogacy—namely, to decriminalise altruistic surrogacy but to continue to make commercial surrogacy arrangements illegal. This model received support from an overwhelming majority of stakeholders and commentators. The government has now prepared a draft bill, taking into account the feedback and input we received. This legislation will have a significant effect on people's lives and I now table for the benefit of all members and interested Queenslanders the consultation draft of the Surrogacy Bill 2009 and the explanatory notes.

Tabled paper: Consultation of draft Surrogacy Bill 2009 [[1216](#)].

Tabled paper: Consultation of draft Surrogacy Bill 2009, explanatory notes [[1217](#)].

This bill heralds a new era for Queensland couples. These reforms mean that many people who once only ever dreamt of starting a family will now be able to make those dreams a reality. Under the bill, a surrogacy arrangement is where a birth mother agrees to become pregnant and for the child born as a result of this arrangement to be treated as the child of another person or persons—the intended parents. The parties involved in an altruistic surrogacy arrangement who wish to seek an order from the court to transfer the legal parentage of the child must meet certain strict requirements. Among others, these include satisfying the court that the parties have undergone counselling, received independent legal advice and have established a medical or social need for the surrogacy.

This legislation demonstrates the Bligh government's commitment to social reform, equality and the importance of family. The bill and explanatory notes will be available on the parliamentary website as well as the Justice website at justice.qld.gov.au. I anticipate that the final version of the bill will be introduced into the Legislative Assembly in late November.