



**4 August 2008**

**Legislative Council  
Standing Committee on Law and Justice**

**INQUIRY INTO LEGISLATION ON ALTRUISTIC  
SURROGACY IN NEW SOUTH WALES**

The NSW Attorney General, the Hon John Hatzistergos MLC, has asked the NSW Parliament's Standing Committee on Law and Justice to conduct an inquiry into whether NSW legislation requires amendment to better deal with altruistic surrogacy.

Committee Chair, the Hon Christine Robertson MLC said, "This is an important matter for all Australian jurisdictions, not just New South Wales. The Committee will not only look at the legislative arrangements in NSW, but will also examine the efficacy of surrogacy legislation in other jurisdictions and the possibility of working towards national consistency in this area.

"The inquiry will consider complex issues such as the whether the intended and birth parent or parents should be required to meet certain criteria before entering into a surrogacy arrangement. The inquiry will also consider the legal rights and responsibilities of all parties.

"In addition, the Committee will look at the role that a genetic relationship should play in any altruistic surrogacy arrangement. Importantly, the Committee will examine the rights of a child born through an altruistic surrogacy arrangement to access information relating to his or her genetic parentage.

"There are many sensitive issues at play here, and we are keen to hear from as many people as possible," Ms Robertson said. "We are inviting submissions on this important matter, which are due by 26 September 2008. We expect to hold public hearings in November."

Submissions can be submitted via email to [law@parliament.nsw.gov.au](mailto:law@parliament.nsw.gov.au), faxed to (02) 9230 3416 or mailed to:

The Director, Standing Committee on Law and Justice,  
Parliament House, Macquarie Street, Sydney NSW 2000.

Information about making a submission can be obtained from the Committee Secretariat on telephone (02) 9230 3534 or via the Committee's website at: [www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice](http://www.parliament.nsw.gov.au/lawandjustice)

*For further information please contact the Committee Secretariat on  
9230 3534 or for comment, please contact the Hon Christine  
Robertson MLC, Chair of the Committee on (02) 9230 2971*