

INQUIRY INTO LEGISLATION ON ALTRUISTIC SURROGACY IN NSW

Name: Ms Michelle Evans

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To whom it may concern,

Please accept this late submission - I was not aware that there was public submission available to the inquiry into Legislation on Altruistic Surrogacy in NSW, and have only just found out.

My name is Michelle Evans. I am on a quest to for as much as possible to change the laws on surrogacy in NSW, to enable me to live my life long dream of having my own child.

At the age of 22, I underwent a hysterectomy for adenocarcinoma, and while I still have my ovaries, I am physically not able to carry a child. At the age of 22, I had no idea how that operation would affect me in later life, nor how determined it would make me to be able to have a child of my own - especially now that I have met a person who I want to not only spend the rest of my life with, but to hopefully be the father of my children.

At the time of my diagnosis and operation, my then gynaecologist advised me that surrogacy would be an option for me. Unfortunately he didn't advise me of the hurdles and obstacles in my way to realise my dream. Never would I have believed that the current legislation in Australia, even in NSW where myself and my partner currently reside, may stop me from doing this.

For the last 3 years I have been seeing a gynaecologist at IVF Australia for my regular annual check ups and to sound out my options for surrogacy. I have just recently had my first counselling appointment there to find out more information on the options that are available to us. It was my counsellor who advised me to 'start my mission' and find out as much information as possible, from wherever possible, especially because I have already found a potential surrogate.

So that I did. I have fired off a series of emails, including to Senator Stephen Conroy in Victoria, NSW and National Attorney Generals, websites, chat groups and heaven knows where else, as a source of information, and possibly as a means to satisfying our dreams. I have looked into options around Australia and as far as Canada. As I am sure you can imagine, I don't want to have to go offshore to have a baby of my own, but at the same time I still want to be legally recognised as that child's parent.

I have found on my quest that whilst surrogacy is not outlawed as such in NSW, I would not be recognised, nor my partner without difficulty, as my Childs natural mother. You have absolutely no idea what it would mean to me to be able to have my own child - a little piece of us that we can call our own. With adoption and the waitlists, and the sheer fact that there are not many children available for adoption, this has not really seemed like an option for us. Surrogacy is our preferential option for being able to have a child of our own - simple law changes can help us to make that dream a reality, and possibly (amongst others) the happiest moment in our lives.

Please, don't deliberate on this issue - there are so many loving and caring people in this state alone who wish to make another person a part of that loving environment - how can we let beaurocracy and red tape stop that? Why is there a difference for a willing person to offer you the most wonderful gift in the world, to a young teenage mother to bring life to something that may not be wanted? It's simply not fair! Life deals us cards that can sometimes be a little hard to deal with and this is one of them. With the right law in place and the right guidelines to ensure that the Childs wellbeing is always at the forefront of any decision, why can't this be a simple process?

This is not merely a money making scheme by welcome uteruses - it's something that the most wonderful person out there wants to share with someone else - the chance to have their own child! It's not a baby factory - it's simply a chance to let a much loved and wanted little one into the world.

I honestly hope, wish and dream that you all look favourably on changing the ways of the world so to speak, and honestly open up your hearts to let us share a little of what some of you most definitely have - a child of your own.

I wait to hear hopefully of happy news early next year - please if my own personal experience may help or if you would like to hear from me or discuss with me any matters whatsoever relating to this inquiry, please call me on

Thank you for your time and I look forward to hearing a happy outcome - more than I think you can ever imagine!

Kind Regards,

Michelle Evans