

## **INQUIRY INTO LEGISLATION ON ALTRUISTIC SURROGACY IN NSW**

**Organisation:** Tangled Webs Australia

**Date received:** 2/10/2008

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TangledWebs Inc.

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Ms. Myf Walker

### **Inquiry into legislation on altruistic surrogacy in NSW**

Tangledwebs Inc., a voice of advocacy for donor conceived persons, unconditionally opposes all forms of surrogacy.

It is our strongly held belief that it is NEVER in the best interests of a child that it be intentionally created in circumstances that make it less than equal with other members of the human family.

Surrogacy is an arrangement that first and foremost exists to meet the needs of adults; inevitably disregarding the human rights of the child born through surrogacy arrangements.

A child's best interests are served when it is conceived and gestated by; born to and nurtured by, one mother. To fragment maternal roles through ova donation/gestational surrogacy (or "straight" commercial or altruistic surrogacy and relinquishment at birth), is to deny a child its entitlement to a whole mother. Tangledwebs believes it is every child's birthright to experience a lifelong physical and emotional relationship with its genealogical mother from conception onwards. Anything that intentionally diminishes this natural relationship is, we believe, detrimental to a child's physical and emotional wellbeing.

In circumstances where a baby loses its mother through death or abandonment (or through other tragic circumstances) it is regarded as a profound loss for the child. Surrogacy CREATES this loss for a child and regards it as a triumph to be celebrated.

The lifelong consequences of surrogacy in the life of the child may not be immediately recognized. Identity confusion, genealogical dislocation, complex family relationships characterize adoption and, we believe, surrogacy outcomes. Children of adoption (who similarly experienced a separation from their biological mother) are affected by this experience throughout their life cycle. Tangledwebs recommends the work of Nancy Verrier, (psychotherapist and adoptive mother), author of "The Primal Wound; the effects of separation for the adopted child", and "Coming Home to Self - the Adopted Child Grows Up", which examines the profound consequences of separation and loss in the lives of adopted persons.

Regardless of the needs and desires of adults to become parents in these circumstances, Tangledwebs maintains that it is cruel and wrong to intentionally create a child with the intention of denying him/her a "whole" relationship with a "whole" mother.

Members of Tangledwebs are predominantly adult persons who have themselves been created through donor conception practices. Tangledwebs unequivocally defines surrogacy as a donor conception arrangement.

It is from this personal knowledge of loss and disenfranchisement, that Tangledwebs maintains its position of absolute opposition to all forms of surrogacy practices.

Sincerely  
Myf Walker  
(TW Public Officer)