



Legislative Council

MEDIA RELEASE

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RELEASE OF COMMITTEE REPORT ON INQUIRY INTO SURROGACY BILL 2011 AND SURROGACY (CONSEQUENTIAL AMENDMENTS) BILL 2011

A Legislative Council Committee investigating the Surrogacy Bill 2011 and Surrogacy (Consequential Amendments) Bill 2011 has recommended the Surrogacy Bill 2011 be amended to include guiding principles to more appropriately ensure the interests of the child are considered paramount, a prescribed support role for Adoption and Permanency Services within the Department of Health and Human Services as well as a range of other amendments.

The report into the Surrogacy Bills was finalised earlier this week and was tabled in the Legislative Council today.

Committee Chairperson Ruth Forrest MLC said the Committee had a range of concerns in relation to the Surrogacy Bill 2011 and found that the interests of a child born of a surrogacy arrangement as well as the interests of the parties to a surrogacy arrangement were not adequately protected or considered under the Bill.

“The Committee has made a number of recommendations which has included the addition of guiding principles to better protect the interest of the child, that written surrogacy arrangements are mandatory, the inclusion of medical or social need tests and some eligibility criteria” Ms Forrest stated.

Ms Forrest said that the Committee was also recommending that the Bill include a prescribed role for Adoption and Permanency Services within the Department of Health and Human Services to provide a support role in a similar way to their existing role with adoption cases. Ms Forrest also said that the Act should be administered by the Department of Health and Human Services to reflect this expertise.

“The Committee has found the Bill provides for a minimalist approach to surrogacy arrangements and fails to provide adequate support mechanisms for the parties. Adoption and Permanency Services have the skills and expertise to undertake an important support role in surrogacy cases and the Committee could not understand why this available expertise had been overlooked”.

Ms Forrest said the Inquiry into the Bills by the Committee was an important contribution to ensuring the most appropriate model of surrogacy for consideration by the Legislative Council and supported the ongoing role of Committees in the scrutiny of Bills before the Legislative Council.

Further information about the Inquiry including terms of reference, transcripts, published evidence and the Inquiry Report are available at:

<http://www.parliament.tas.gov.au/ctee/Council/GovAdminA.htm>

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FURTHER INFORMATION: Ruth Forrest MLC on 0419879524