

3 Stanfield Drive  
Old Beach. 7017

The Secretary  
Legislative Council Sessional Committee Surrogacy Bill 2011  
Hobart. 7000

Dear Sir/Madam

In relation to the Proposed Surrogacy Legislation that is currently before your Committee for discussion I would like the following points to be taken into consideration during this submission period:

- until Inter-country adoption is made less bureaucratic and less expensive, Surrogacy will be the only option for couples that can't afford IVF or where IVF has not been successful for the couple,
- a register of willing Surrogate Carriers should be made available, administered by Family Services, for those couples that have no friends or family members able to assist them
- the Surrogate Carriers to be eligible for Sickness Benefits due to pregnancy if complications occur during gestation
- the contracts between the Biological Parents and the Surrogate Carrier to be lodged with the Family court
- No discrimination on race, gender, sexuality, political or religious affiliation to play a part in this process.
- Gay couples to be allowed access to Donor Eggs/Sperm in circumstances where they are unable to provide either/or themselves
- When the child is born, the Biological parents names will be entered on the Birth Certificate with the Register of Births, Deaths and Marriages
- The surrogate Carrier and the Biological Parents are all to be Tasmanian residents during the period of gestation
- All normal paternity/maternity benefits to be available to the Biological Parents of the child once the child is born
- Additional counselling to be available for all parties – biological parents and Surrogate Carrier – upon request via the current Medicare Mental Health scheme before, during and after the birth

I hope points can be taken into consideration when the legislation is finalised and sent before the Tasmanian Parliament.

Thank you for taking the time to read, and consider these points.

Yours truly,

Juanita and Nigel Barrett  
Old Beach