

**Legislation Committee**

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**From:** Gerrit Griffioen [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 May 2019 9:45 PM  
**To:** Legislation Committee  
**Subject:** Submission to Inquiry into Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill 2018.

Dear Members of the Standing Committee on Legislation,

I am writing to address your inquiry into the *Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*, which I understand will amend the *Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991* and the *Surrogacy Act 2008* to enable male same-sex couples and single men to access surrogacy.

My big concern is: where is the protection of the child? Thus far the whole matter is concentrating on the adult(s) only. The result of this legislation is that children knowingly will be deprived from their biological mother and deliberately raised in a so called "family" without a father and a mother. Objective research has shown that children thrive best in intact biological families.

How can any law, however cleverly worded, prevent that birth-mothers are not exploited and the children are not damaged? What if the child after birth is rejected by the "father" because it has a defect, a disability or is of the "wrong" sex/gender? How can in such cases coercion of the birth mother be prevented?

Surrogacy makes children a commodity; effectively it is a commercial transaction with the life of an innocent (unborn) child at stake.

Men, by virtue of their biology, cannot bear children and thus there is no need for the law to 'correct' this. In its current form the law will actually create a double standard, placing restrictions on women but not on men.

Please note that many countries: Germany, Denmark, France, Spain, Switzerland, Poland, Slovakia, Hungary, Croatia, Romania, Bulgaria, Estonia and Lithuania, all have a total prohibition of surrogacy for both men and women. These countries have done a thorough investigation of the unexpected side-effects on surrogacy and legislated decided against it.

Surrogacy has seen already some negative results in West Australia with big consequences for the birth-mother and the child(ren).

Finally: how can someone justify surrogacy for single men and male same-sex couples on the basis that Australia has legalised same-sex marriage? They are two complete unrelated issues.

Respectfully submitted.

Yours faithfully,

Gerrit Griffioen  
[REDACTED]