

Nadeen Laljee-Curran

Legislative Council
Parliament House
4 Harvest Tce
West Perth WA 6005

3 May 2019

Dear Hon Member,

I am writing to you in your capacity as my representative member in the Legislative Council urging you to consider supporting the Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation amendment bill 2018 which is currently being debated in the council.

At the moment altruistic surrogacy in Western Australia is accessible to those who are medically infertile only. This translates to it being accessible to heterosexual couples, lesbian couples and single females. Those who are "socially infertile" (i.e. gay men) and single males are not able to access surrogacy in WA and we are the only state / territory in Australia which outlaws this. I feel strongly that this law forces our gay and single men to go overseas where they are open to financial and emotional exploitation and often put their children at medical risk. We need to look after our people and give them the right to try and have a child here if they have a woman or women willing to help them.

This is not a debate about sexuality but aligning with equal opportunity legislation. I feel that with the same sex marriage legislation recently passed, our surrogacy law should follow suit. If we accept same sex marriages it is only natural to accept same sex parent families and it is worth noting that there is evidence to show that children from same sex families are equally as well adjusted, emotionally secure and successful as their "traditional" family counterparts.

After 13 gruelling unsuccessful Assisted Reproductive Technology attempts myself, my daughter was born via surrogacy in the USA. Even though I am in a heterosexual marriage, we had to go to the US for a number of reasons, the difficulties surrounding surrogacy in Australia being significant contributors and my husband and I can say first hand that surrogacy overseas is an extremely difficult process. It opens up to parents financial, psychological, support, health and legal issues. It is important therefore that we do not force members of our community through this.

Thanks for your consideration.

Yours sincerely,



Nadeen Laljee-Curran