

**Legislation Committee**

---

**From:** Liz Gibbons [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 24 April 2019 8:47 PM  
**To:** Legislation Committee  
**Subject:** Submission

Please accept this submission to House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs in its Inquiry into Surrogacy

I am in favour of amending the *Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991* and the *Surrogacy Act 2008* to enable same-sex couples and single men access to surrogacy to become parents.

My primary concern is the exclusion of same sex couples from accessing surrogacy.

There is no evidence that same sex parents are less equipped to raise children than heterosexual couples. All children, regardless of how their families are created, are at risk of being harmed by parents who are lacking in appropriate skills and the right motivation for raising children.

I don't believe that there are any grounds to exclude same sex couples from accessing surrogacy to become parents. Changing the legislation to enable same sex couples access would enable Australia to comply with its human rights obligations.

On a more personal note, I have friends and family members who are in same sex relationships and consequently, who are currently negatively affected by this discriminatory policy. I would like to see their Australia honour its obligations to them by changing policy and legislation that denies them equality.

thank you for your consideration,

Elizabeth Gibbons