

29 April 2019

Legislation Committee

Legislative Council

Dear Legislative Council Legislation Committee,

RE: Inquiry into *Human Reproductive Technology and Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill 2018*

We write to encourage you to oppose this bill that expands the scope of surrogacy; denies children a mother and father; and causes pain to the surrogate mother.

Surrogacy is unethical in the way it removes or damages the link between children and their biological parents. There is a similar principle here to the pain observed by the 'stolen generation'. The mother of the first child born under Queensland's surrogacy laws in 2010 said "*I was crying in hospital when he was having his first bath... I regret everything, I don't regret Connor, I regret the decision very much, I just wish I'd never done it.*"<sup>1</sup> Surrogacy so often negatively impacts children and women for the selfish desires of people.

Importantly surrogacy also does not respect God who alone is the creator and owner of life.<sup>2</sup>

Praying that you have wisdom for your task,

[Redacted]

Andrew & Jody van Burgel

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.news.com.au/national/gay-parents-of-queenslands-first-surrogate-baby-are-rapt-but-birth-mother-has-bitter-regrets/news-story/4ee01d45d6a857a4417c46642e05c15e?sv=514994a8f968ac1c4994b694e340acd7>

<sup>2</sup> *For you formed my inward parts; you knitted me together in my mother's womb. I praise you, for I am fearfully and wonderfully made. Wonderful are your works; my soul knows it very well.* (Psalm 139:13-14, English Standard Version)