

**Legislation Committee**

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 1 May 2019 7:06 AM  
**To:** Legislation Committee  
**Subject:** Submission to Inquiry into Human Reproductive Technology & Surrogacy Legislation Amendment Bill 2018

Dear Members on the Standing Committee on Legislation

I am writing to you to address your inquiry into the Human Reproductive Technology & 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.

Surrogacy creates ongoing ethical issues. This debate is currently framed around the perspective of adults when it should be around the perspective of children. Surrogacy removes children from their natural mother and studies show that children do best in intact biological families. It also further fractures the family by dividing motherhood into various categories including 'genetic', 'birth', 'legal' and social mother. It risks exploiting women and damaging children. Whether it is in a 'commercial' or 'altruistic' arrangement there are many possibilities of coercion to the birth mother. There are cases of genetic parents making the birth mother have an abortion and abandonment of babies born with disabilities.

When surrogacy laws were initially introduced they were designed to allow women who had a reasonable expectation of having a child to do so. Men cannot bear children so there is no need for the law to 'correct' this.

Please do not amend this bill to allow for male same-sex couples or single men to access surrogacy.

Yours faithfully

John & Tanya Dekker  
[Redacted]



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