

Legislation Committee

From: Gordon de Snoo <gordon.desnoo@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, 30 April 2019 9:25 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.

It was reported in "The Age" newspaper 22 April 2016 that " Australian sex offenders are going overseas in search of surrogate babies in worrying numbers, says a leading surrogacy lawyer who believes urgent law reform is needed.... Federal Circuit Court chief judge John Pascoe told a family law conference in Shanghai in 2014 that a "hardline" regime should be introduced to protect children and women from the vagaries of international surrogacy. "Surrogacy is the new front-line in the trafficking and commodification of women and newborn children," he said."

The proposed laws currently being considered do not protect this trafficking of children.

I also consider that that the proposed laws will create a double standard, placing restrictions on women but not on men. Men, by virtue of their biology, cannot bear children and thus there is no need for a law to 'correct this'.

I appeal to you not to recommend these changes in the law.

Yours faithfully,

Gordon de Snoo
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