

Subject: INQUIRY INTO SURROGACY
Date: Monday, 1 February 2016 9:57:39 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I would like to submit my submission about surrogacy in Australia.

As an adopted person, I feel I have a bit of an insight into how children who are raised without their natural mum feel.

I believe it is a cruelty to a child to create a child with the intention of removing that child from their original mum.

Also with surrogacy there is also the potential for the egg to be donated and birthed by a different mother, which is another layer of confusion for the child that is the result of this marketing of babies. The child will bond, through the sharing of blood and genetic matter with their mother who births them. Also it is being proven more and more about the awareness of children in the womb from an extremely early fetal age.

Perhaps a child will end up with their donor egg mum or donor sperm dad.

This does not change the fact that the child will be removed from the biological mum at birth, which is quite traumatic for a baby and will definitely result in a great degree of loss later in life when the adult the child becomes realises the loss of their mother.

If the child is passed on to someone other than the mum they are born to, they will be potentially suffering from genetic bewilderment. I'll attach a page about that written by Dr Helen Riley.

http://eprints.qut.edu.au/51537/1/Helen_Riley_Thesis.pdf

Perhaps where the child is born to someone with the same genetic material (as in the case of a grandmother carrying a grandchild or a sister carrying a sister's child) then the loss will not be so profound, but the problem is that the child has to grow up for us to know what the loss is. If the egg donor is the mother who the baby grows up with, the loss may not be so profound, especially if the biological mum is a close relative, but I do think there will still be some confusion in the child's mind about who exactly their mum is.

I don't think that there should be any secrecy at all in any of these arrangements if they are allowed to progress.

Of course I feel some sympathy towards people who cannot conceive their own child, but

we cannot, by default allow them then to create a child through an arrangement that the child will then suffer from later in their lives.

Adoptee