



New Parliamentary inquiry to examine surrogacy arrangements

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has commenced a new inquiry into surrogacy arrangements for Australians, as requested by the Attorney-General Senator the Hon George Brandis QC.

The inquiry will focus on a broad set of social and legal issues relating to both international and domestic surrogacy, including:

- how the States and Territories regulate surrogacy,
- the medical and welfare issues involved in surrogacy, including issues of exploitation and informed consent,
- Commonwealth laws and policies relevant to surrogacy, including whether changes are needed to better protect children and others involved in surrogacy, and
- surrogacy laws and practices in other countries, and the effect of Australia's international obligations.

Committee chair George Christensen MP noted that surrogacy can have substantial social, ethical and psychological impacts on donors, intending parents, surrogates and surrogate children.

'We want to make sure that Australia's laws and policies on this issue make sense, and that we are doing all we can to make sure that the welfare of all parties involved is being protected,' Mr Christensen said.

The Committee is calling for submissions from any organisation or individual with an interest in domestic or international surrogacy. Submissions will remain open until **11 February 2016**. Please notify the Committee secretariat at spla.reps@aph.gov.au if you intend to make a submission.

Further information on the inquiry, including the full terms of reference, is available on the Committee website at www.aph.gov.au/spla.

For media comment – please contact Lynniss Bonanno in the Chair's office on (07) 4944 0662.

For inquiry information – please contact the Secretariat:

spla.reps@aph.gov.au | (02) 6277 2358 | www.aph.gov.au/spla
