

Dear Committee

It was an honour to give evidence yesterday.

Ballpark figures for Australian intended parents undertaking surrogacy from beginning to end of the journey:

- Most Australian States: \$70,000, most of which as I said is an allowance for IVF.
- Victoria add another \$5-10,000 due to regulatory issues.
- WA add another \$5,000 or so on top of Victoria. WA and Victoria are higher due to compliance costs. Each has a State regulator which must pre-approve surrogacy journeys. The other States do not. Two clinics in WA charge \$10,000 to cover the costs of obtaining regulatory compliance – not including legal costs. I hope the current review in WA means that discrimination there ends, the cost for intended parents goes down and the ability to undertake surrogacy there increases. In rough terms for every child born to WA residents through surrogacy (one a year in WA), about 20 are born overseas. Sadly, discrimination does not just exist in WA- also In ACT (intended parents must be couple and the surrogate must be part of a couple) and Tasmania (everyone must live there). ACT, Victoria and WA require part of the ART to occur in that State- despite often the costs of the ART being subsidised by the Commonwealth.
- Greece \$120,000.
- Canada \$140,000
- USA \$250,000

As I said yesterday 1 in 5 Australian children born via surrogacy are born in Australia, the rest being born overseas, and more Australian children are born via surrogacy in the US than at home. Availability, being welcomed and appreciated, and lack of discrimination triumph over cost.

These costs are estimated by me from regular discussions with clients, and industry figures. As of May last year, I had since 1988 advised in over 1800 surrogacy journeys for clients from throughout Australia and over 30 countries overseas.

Regards

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