



Surrogacy Australia appearing before inquiry

Surrogacy Australia will appear before the House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs this Thursday as part of the Committee's inquiry into surrogacy.

Surrogacy Australia advocates to advance the interests of Australians who have or wish to engage in both altruistic and commercial surrogacy arrangements in Australia and overseas.

While commercial surrogacy is illegal in all Australian jurisdictions, the Committee has heard that many Australians travel overseas to engage in the practice. Prior evidence to the Committee has pointed to some exploitation of surrogates and children as a result. This is one of the key issues that the Committee is keen to explore with Surrogacy Australia at the hearing.

The hearing will be held on **Thursday 11 February** from **9.30am to 10.30am** in **Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra**. A live audio stream of the hearing will be available on the Parliament House website at [this link](#).

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

- Commonwealth laws, policies and practices relating to family law, immigration, citizenship, passports, child support and privacy relevant to surrogacy,
- whether changes are needed to better protect children and others involved in surrogacy
- regulation of surrogacy in Australia's States and Territories,
- the medical and welfare issues involved in surrogacy, including issues of exploitation and informed consent, and
- surrogacy laws and practices in other countries, and the effect of Australia's international obligations.

A reminder that the Committee's call for submissions, accepted from any organisation or individual with an interest in domestic or international surrogacy will also close on Thursday **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 Lynnis 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
