

15 March 2018

The Program Manager, Reproductive Technology Unit, Patient Safety & Clinical Quality
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SUBJECT: SUBMISSION TO THE REVIEW OF THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN HUMAN REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGY ACT 1991 AND THE SURROGACY ACT 2008

I wish to make a personal submission addressing certain aspects of the Terms of Reference, which I reproduce as headings (bold characters) below.

“Research and experimentation on gametes, eggs in the process of fertilisation and embryos.” and “Genetic testing of embryos, saviour siblings, mitochondrial donation and gene editing technology.”

Many Australians, including myself, my family and members of my Church, recognize that every human person has intrinsic value, that human life begins at conception and should be protected at every stage of life. Accordingly, any research, experimentation or testing on embryos or “eggs in the process of fertilization” which threatens life or viability should not be permitted under the *Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991* or elsewhere.

“The need for continued prohibition on commercial surrogacy”, “international commercial surrogacy arrangements” or “international trade in gametes and embryos”.

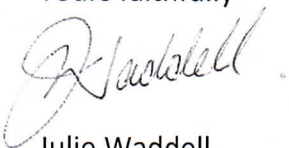
Every child should enjoy the right to life, dignity and respect. Commercial surrogacy (whether domestic or international) and all trade in gametes or embryos is entirely inconsistent with these rights of the child and should continue to be illegal under the *Surrogacy Act 2008*. There is abundant evidence now available, particularly from overseas experience, that separating childbearing from motherhood leads to many problems for biological mother and child. The child becomes a traded commodity, rather than a human person to be respected and loved. The mother is treated as a service provider, rather than a mother able to love and nurture her biological child. Commercial surrogacy and all trading of embryos or gametes should remain illegal.

“Whether there should be a process of review or appeal of decisions made by the Council under the HRT Act” or “Whether there should be a process of review or appeal of decisions made by Council under the Surrogacy Act.”

Given the critical importance of the issues involved and the protections needed, it is essential that the operation of both Acts and the operational bodies (such as the Council) are open to proper, periodic parliamentary scrutiny by both Houses of the Western Australian Parliament and their committees.

Thank you for this opportunity to have my submission considered.

Yours faithfully



Julie Waddell

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