



Surrogacy inquiry begins public hearings

The House Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs will begin public hearings in Canberra this week for its inquiry into surrogacy. The Committee's program of hearings begins with Chief Judge John Pascoe, head of the Federal Circuit Court of Australia.

Chief Judge Pascoe has a wealth of expertise in family law and surrogacy matters, and will soon represent Australia in negotiations for a possible international convention on surrogacy at The Hague.

The hearing will be held 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.

The Committee will continue to accept 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 Lynn 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
