



Law council to appear before surrogacy inquiry

The inquiry into surrogacy by the Social Policy and Legal Affairs Standing Committee continues this week with a public hearing at which the Law Council of Australia and legal scholars from the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) will appear.

The inquiry is investigating the breadth of domestic regulation of surrogacy and the legal, medical and welfare complexities that arise when Australians choose to seek international commercial surrogacy arrangements.

Professors Jenni Millbank and Anita Stuhmcke from UTS have extensive research experience on the topic of surrogacy and are conducting a four-year research project on cross-border reproductive treatment.

Following their appearance the Law Council of Australia, the peak legal representative body in Australia, will appear.

The hearing will be held on **Thursday 25 February** from **9.30am to 11.00am** 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.

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

The inquiry has also recently been featured in a story on About the House TV which can be accessed online at http://www.aph.gov.au/about_parliament/house_of_representatives/athtv.

