



Hearings continue for surrogacy inquiry

The roles and responsibilities of Commonwealth agencies will be the focus of a public hearing to be held on Thursday as part of the Social Policy and Legal Affairs Standing Committee's inquiry into surrogacy. Key government agencies will meet with the Committee to discuss how Australia's laws, policies and practices apply to Australians that have engaged in offshore or domestic surrogacy arrangements. The program is as follows:

- 9.30am - 10.15am: Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade & Department of Immigration and Border Protection.
- 10.15am – 11.00am Attorney-General's Department, Department of Social Services & Department of Health.

The hearing will be held on **Thursday 3 March** 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.

For media comment – please contact Lynn Bonanno in the Chair's office on (07) 4944 0662.

For inquiry information – please contact the Secretariat:

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