



Roundtable on Domestic and International Surrogacy

The House Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs will be holding a roundtable examining the topic of surrogacy on **Thursday, 5 March 2015**, at **Parliament House, Canberra**. Thursday's roundtable will allow the Committee to hear perspectives from a diverse group of individuals and organisations with relevant experience in the field. Participants include representatives from Surrogacy Australia and experts with wide –ranging assisted reproductive technology, fertility, counselling, adoption, legal and academic experience.

Themes expected to be canvassed by roundtable participants include:

- Australian surrogacy-related law and legal processes
- International surrogacy arrangements and Australia's human rights obligations
- Altruistic vs commercial surrogacy and issues of consent
- Scientific, health and medical aspects of surrogacy
- Social, ethical and psychological impacts of surrogacy arrangements

Committee Chair, Mr George Christensen MP noted that the Committee's recent discussions with Australian government agencies highlighted numerous deficiencies with surrogacy law as it applies in Australia. Mr Christensen highlighted the heightened interest in surrogacy matters stemming from recent high profile cases of surrogate children with Australian parentage. "The Committee hopes that Thursday's discussion will facilitate greater understanding not only of the science behind surrogacy but also of the key social, ethical and psychological impacts that surrogacy has on donors, intending parents, surrogates and surrogate children."

This week's session will follow on from the Committee's discussions on surrogacy with Australian Government stakeholders held last week in Canberra. The transcript from that session can be accessed on the Committee website <http://www.aph.gov.au/spla>.

The roundtable will commence at **9.15am** and due to limited seating at the venue, interested observers are encouraged to view **live proceedings** on the Parliamentary website at: <http://www.aph.gov.au/live>.

For further information about the roundtable, including a full program and list of participants, please visit <http://www.aph.gov.au/spla> or contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 2358.

For media comment, please contact the Committee Chair, Mr George Christensen MP, on (07) 4944 0622 or (02) 6277 4538.