

Surrogacy

The following statement can be attributed to Mr Rick O'Brien, Chair, Family Law Section, Law Council of Australia:

- The Family Law Section (FLS) of the Law Council of Australia supports Chief Judge Pascoe's call for a 'proper national inquiry' into international commercial surrogacy.
- The FLS considers this to be a necessary step to ensure Australians have an opportunity to consider the complex issues raised by commercial surrogacy and its implications both within Australia and in relation to the use of international surrogacy services by Australians.
- Proper consideration of the complex issues is critical to the protection of the rights and interests of vulnerable women and children.
- The FLS notes that the Family Law Council was not asked to consider the issue of surrogacy in the terms of reference issued by the Commonwealth Attorney-General for the Family Law Council's inquiry in relation to who is considered to be a parent of a child under the *Family Law Act 1975*.
- However, the Family Law Council, in their 2013 Report, did recommend that there be a further inquiry into the full range of issues raised by international surrogacy and its impact on Australian (Commonwealth) laws. The Family Law Section of the Law Council of Australia endorses that recommendation.

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