

Submission to the review of the WA HRT Act and Surrogacy Act.

Danielle Stone [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, March 16, 2018 3:34 PM**To:** HRTSR

To the Program Manager,

This is a submission into the review of the Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 and the Surrogacy Act 2008.

My partner and I have accessed donor sperm via a WA clinic to conceive a child and I am currently pregnant. We have encountered a number of issues working through this process over the past 3 years. I have listed them below:

- Lesbian and Gay couples are excluded from medicare rebates as they are classed as "socially infertile" however single women are not excluded. This is discrimination and all LGBTI people should be able to access medicare rebates for treatment.
- There does not seem to be any over arching regulations governing clinics. We often received incorrect information from our clinic in regards to our rights. There needs to be a WA body overseeing this for the consumer. Or better yet, the same laws for each State with a federal overarching body/ombudsman.
- My partner has been unable to fall pregnant with embryos created with her eggs and our donor sperm. Apparently we would have to go through the process of surrogacy, or "donation of embryo". In fact, we may not even be allowed at all (the clinic has not been able to give us a clear answer on this) for me to carry her embryos even though the the resulting child would be legally **our** child (we would both be listed as parents on the birth certificate as will be the case with the child we are currently pregnant with). This is not consistent with a heterosexual couple as the male does not need to "donate" to his female partner. There is also inconsistency with the legislation as the embryos my partner and I have created are ours not just my partners, and therefore either of us should be able to use the embryos.

Many Thanks,
Danielle Stone

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