



Women's Declaration International (Australia)

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Review of Surrogacy Laws
Australian Law Reform Commission
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Submitted online: <https://www.alrc.gov.au/inquiry/review-of-surrogacy-laws/make-a-submission/>

11 July 2025

Submission for Review into Surrogacy Laws

Women's Declaration International (WDI) is a group of volunteer women from across the globe dedicated to protecting women's sex-based rights. WDI represents 39,477 individual signatories from 160 Countries including Australia and works in collaboration with 547 organizations. Our volunteers include academics, writers, organizers, activists, lawyers and health practitioners. We aim to represent the breadth of female experience across national boundaries.

Details of our Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights are provided on the main website for the international campaign (<https://www.womensdeclaration.com/en/>). Our Declaration reaffirms the sex-based rights of women and girls which are set out in the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and in the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women 1993 (UNDEVW).

Article 3 of the Declaration on Women's Sex-Based Rights specifically reaffirms the rights of women and girls to physical and reproductive integrity and states as follows:

(a) States should ensure that the full reproductive rights of women and girls, and unhindered access to comprehensive reproductive services, are upheld.

*(b) States should recognize that harmful practices such as forced pregnancies, and the **commercial or altruistic exploitation of women's reproductive capacities involved in 'surrogate' motherhood, are violations of the physical and reproductive integrity of girls and women, and are to be eliminated as forms of sex-based discrimination.***

(c) States should recognize that medical research which is aimed at enabling men to gestate and give birth to children is a violation of the physical and reproductive integrity of girls and women, and is to be eliminated as a form of sex-based discrimination.

Accordingly, WDI Australia **is strongly opposed** to all forms of surrogacy and advocates for the elimination of a practice which constitutes a form of sex-based discrimination against women and girls. Further surrogacy of any kind breaches the human rights of infants and exposes them to untold harm. We endorse submissions made by other women's groups within Australia that support the banning of all surrogacy arrangements.

We are happy to expand in detail in relation to our concerns if required.

Yours faithfully



Anna Kerr
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Women's Declaration International