

Subject: Re: opportunity to provide feedback that will be used to inform the Ministerial Expert Panel (MEP) on lived experience in Western Australia.
From: Anna Kerr <anna@feministlegal.org>
Date: 2/9/22, 7:44 am
To: ART.Secretariat@health.wa.gov.au
BCC: "cmlynchmc@gmail.com" <cmlynchmc@gmail.com>, Renate Klein <renate.klein@bigpond.com>

Dear ART Secretariat

Thank you for your invitation to provide feedback. I refer to our previous brief [submission of 16 March 2016](#) attaching our [published article on this subject](#) and note our position has not changed. We would also strongly recommend to you the Australian book by Dr Renate Klein: [Surrogacy: A Human Rights Violation](#) which provides a comprehensive treatment of this subject.

We do not see the benefit of expending our limited resources repeating arguments already made, but would like to strongly endorse the personal submission made by Dr Catherine Lynch, who is not only Vice-President of Adoptee Rights Australia and founding member of Abolish Surrogacy Australia, but who draws upon lived experience in making her very poignant submission (see below).

We are concerned that feedback from those with greater resources and a vested interest in this industry will be given greater weight in this process than those who have suffered first hand as a result of this continuing trend to treat children as commodities and ignore the critical bond between a child and its mother. There is nothing altruistic about planning to separate a baby from its mother and contractual obligations should never trump the human rights of women and children.

Regards

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From: Catherine Lynch <DRCMLynch@gmail.com>
Subject: opportunity to provide feedback that will be used to inform the Ministerial Expert Panel (MEP) on lived experience in Western Australia.
Date: 24 August 2022 at 6:18:42 pm AEST
To: ART.Secretariat@health.wa.gov.au

Dear Secretariat,

My publish my responses on "key issues" as follows:

When you separate a newborn baby from its mother it is terrified – it cries for days, refuses food, does not

sleep properly.

All the baby's searching behaviours are activated – it looks for its mothers face, her smell, her voice.

The trauma of mother loss at or near to birth lasts a lifetime and is intergenerational.

I cannot believe that after TWO national apologies for separating mothers and babies that somebody thinks its a good thing to make it legal.

We have laws that prevent the separation of kittens and puppies from their mothers.

We need the same for people because it is child abuse to take a newborn baby from its gestational mother.

We know because it happened to us. We know because we have decades of scientific research on the stress and trauma causes by taken babies off mothers.

We actually take baby animals off their mothers to do tests on them because we KNOW that removal puts them in a state of stress.

The UNCRC gives every human being a human right NOT to be separated. All surrogacy violates the UNCRC.

The UNCRC gives the State a duty to provide optimal care for newborns: deliberately stressing newborn babies and preventing breast feeding is NOT optimal care.

I state here in the strongest of terms my utter disgust at a society that condones and regulates the deliberate conceptions of human beings for the purpose of traumatising them by taken them off their mothers under surrogacy contracts.

Having your mother pretend she is just an "aunty down the road" does not cut the mustard and the baby remains stressed in her absence.

I wish to have nothing more to do with anyone involved in this trade of children and believe me, once adoptees have had the statute of limitations removed and the legal cases come flooding in, we will make it our next fight to bring all of you involved in this cruelty to justice, by paving the way for people born under surrogacy contracts to likewise litigate.

Shame on you all.

Dr Catherine Lynch JD