

Hi.

I would like to register my interest and make a brief submission on the paid maternity, paternity and parental leave proposal as we are interested in how surrogacy would fit into the proposal. I'm unable to carry children due to cancer but can have a biological child ~ I just need someone to carry it for me. We'll shortly be heading off to India in an attempt to get pregnant after being unable to find a surrogate anywhere in Australia, and I was horrified to discover recently that I would not be entitled to anything other than two weeks parental leave from my employer (a Commonwealth agency) due to not physically carrying the child (which rules out 14 weeks paid maternity leave) or adopting the child (which rules out 8 weeks paid adoption leave) as we would be recognised as the parents on the birth certificate in India. So how will paid maternity, paternity or parental leave treat surrogacy for both the birth mother (if a surrogacy was undertaken in Australia) and the intended parents (us in this case)?

Thanks!

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