

MEDIA RELEASE

For release: February 9, 2010

Children are not pets says Christian lobby

Children are not pets and should not simply be given to anyone who wants one, the Australian Christian Lobby (ACL) said today in calling on Queensland parliamentarians to amend or reject a surrogacy bill set to be debated tomorrow.

ACL Managing Director Jim Wallace said the Surrogacy Bill 2009 should have been directed at permitting surrogacy as a last resort for infertile married couples but instead represents a piece of radical social engineering legislation which will alter the natural make-up of the family – permitting single adults and same-sex couples to have children via surrogacy.

“The Bligh Government knocked back same-sex adoption, but is now going against the logic in that decision by creating situations where a surrogate child could end up with two mummies or two daddies or even just one parent – right from birth,” Mr Wallace said.

“This is experimenting with children’s lives and at this stage they have no way of really knowing just how devastating the effects on the children will be, or the extent of identity confusion that will result. We’ve already had to make amends to a Stolen Generation and a Forgotten Generation – is this the next one?”

“The State should not be accommodating the desires of single men, single women, two men or two women to do what is not possible in nature – that is to have babies.

“The State has a moral duty – a sacred trust – to act in the best interests of the child at all times, and that means doing whatever is possible to ensure that every child at least has the chance to start life with the different but complementary love and nurture of both a mother and a father. How sad for a little girl or boy to never have the chance of knowing a mother or to be brought into the world without a chance of knowing their father,” Mr Wallace said.

“Governments have no business in constructing motherless or fatherless domestic arrangements for children and then falsifying that child’s birth certificate to suit.

“We urge all Queensland parliamentarians to consider the needs of children and reject this bill – or at the very least to split the bill so that MPs can have a true conscience vote on the separate issue of whether to permit single people and same-sex couples to have children via surrogacy.”

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