



Government of **Western Australia**  
Department of **Health**

Office of the Chief Medical Officer

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**Complaints**

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## An Exploratory Study of Participants' Experiences and Views of Surrogacy Arrangements



You are being invited to take part in a study being undertaken by the Reproductive Technology Unit, Department of Health and the Faculty of Law, University of Technology, Sydney, about the experiences and views of people who have been or are currently involved in a surrogacy arrangement. However, before deciding if you want to take part, it is important for you to understand why the study is needed and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully. Discuss it with others if you wish. Ask us if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide if you want to take part.

### **What is the purpose of this study?**

The decision to participate in a surrogacy arrangement is a significant life event. We would like to study the views and experiences of people who have been or are currently involved in a surrogacy arrangement. This research will help other people who are thinking about surrogacy. It will also help to inform future policies and increase public understanding of this complex and deeply personal experience.

### **Why have I been chosen?**

You are being invited to participate because you have been or currently are a participant in an altruistic surrogacy application in Western Australia.

### **Do I have to take part?**

It is important for you to understand that you are under no obligation to take part in this study. You need not give an explanation for your decision and you will not be treated any differently regardless of entry into the study.

### **What will I be asked to do if I take part?**

If you decide to take part in the study you will be given this leaflet to keep and you will be given a consent form to sign.

### **Interview**

You will be interviewed, either by telephone or in person, by a researcher about your views and experience of participation in a surrogacy arrangement. The interview will be tape-recorded by the researcher.

The researcher will analyse the information and compare this with other people in the study. The researcher will provide you with a copy of the research findings and your views will be sought on how much you agree with the key finding of the analysis.

### **What are the possible benefits of taking part?**

Taking part in the study may help to provide guidance to other people who are considering a surrogacy arrangement.

### **What are the possible risks of taking part?**

Taking part in research can be stressful for some people. You will be free to withdraw from the study at any time, should you wish to do so. You will not be treated any differently if you change your mind and de-briefing will be offered.

### **Will my participation in this study be kept confidential?**

All the information collected is confidential and will be stored in a secure area. Your right to privacy will be respected. Review of the tape recordings will be restricted to authorised researchers. Your personal information will not be disclosed to any third party. Your name will be removed from the data to ensure anonymity and you will not be named in the reporting of the findings.

### **What will happen to the results of the study?**

The results of the study will be published in scientific journals and will provide us with information about the process of participation in surrogacy arrangements and how this can be best achieved. You will also receive a copy of the final report of the research findings.

### **What do I do now?**

Thank you for reading this information sheet. If you are interested in taking part or have any further questions please contact Dr Maureen Harris using the contact details listed overleaf. We will require your written consent to take part in the study.