

## HOUSE OF ASSEMBLY

THURSDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2012

### FAMILY RELATIONSHIPS (SURROGACY) AMENDMENT BILL

Adjourned debate on second reading.

(Continued from 1 March 2012.)

**Mr PEDERICK (Hammond) (11:00):** I rise, too, to support this excellent bill put up by the member for Adelaide, the Family Relationships (Surrogacy) Amendment Bill 2012. This builds on the excellent work undertaken by the Hon. John Dawkins from another place in getting the original surrogacy legislation through this place. When I was on the Social Development Committee in my first term in this place, we dealt with the surrogacy issue, and we heard many accounts of what people had to go through if they needed a surrogate so that they could have a family. Generally, it involved spending at least \$50,000 and going interstate because it was not legal in this state, and it certainly seemed absurd to me during the hearings to hear from all these people that they needed to go interstate to have these children with a surrogate.

I commend the work that the Hon. John Dawkins committed to this, and I think this is a very sensible amendment that the member for Adelaide has brought forward. It broadens the eligibility criteria for a potential mother so that her own life and health can be protected if it would be seriously impacted by pregnancy or delivery of an infant. I note that the member for Adelaide had an inquiry to her office about a South Australian mother who had a serious health issue and would likely break her hip if she attempted to deliver another child. As with the earlier surrogacy legislation which came through this place, she would have to move interstate.

I note the clauses that are covered under this amendment of the Family Relationships Act 1975 include that the female commissioning parent is, or appears to be, unable on medical grounds to carry a pregnancy or to give birth; or there appears to be a risk that a serious genetic defect, serious disease or serious illness would be transmitted to a child born to the female commissioning parent; or there appears to be a risk that becoming pregnant or giving birth to a child would result in physical harm to the female commissioning parent, being harm of a kind or of a severity unlikely to be suffered by women becoming pregnant or giving birth generally.

As the father of a couple of lads, I think the role women play in propagating the human species is fantastic. They carry a huge burden for the human race, and I think

us blokes get it easy. I seriously think we get the easy part of the bargain. I commend everyone involved in having a family but I certainly commend women for what they have to go through. I commend the courage of the women and the couples who brought this issue forward in the original legislation, and also in relation to upgrading the act so that there are better criteria for families and potential mothers, that they can have babies safely as long as they can find the appropriate surrogate, and have a happy family, as many of us have. I commend the bill.