

13 3 2018

The Program Manager,

Hello, my name is Vanessa Draper.

I am writing in to share my views on the hardship of gay couples to have children of their own.

I have 5 children, 3 daughters and 2 sons. Both my sons are gay. One of my sons is in a long term relationship, they have built a home together, have great jobs, great friends and family. They are trying to live their life together as any normal couple, same sex or not does. As grown adults they are planning their future and children would be a big part of that, though they have come to the crossroads of being unable to do that at this stage due to surrogacy being illegal here in W.A. They have looked into the costs of other countries to do surrogacy and the cost is outrageous.

This loving couple and many more that we personally know are finding this legality incredibly disheartening and sad.

I was reading the news today of a 25 year old pregnant with her 5th child and is addicted to drugs. (meth), smoking and does not care she is bringing another child into that environment and she is allowed, yet my son and his partner don't smoke, never done or ever will do drugs, have a very loving stable, financially secure future are denied of giving life to children of their own. I find it very sad for myself as it also denies me of having grandchildren.

I myself used IVF to have one of my children and will be forever grateful for the laws, medical science, Drs and ingenious faith and ability given to us to help us fulfil our lives. I can only hope that my sons get to fulfil their hopes and dreams of becoming dads with the use of surrogacy. Thankyou for the chance to express my personal views. We as a family can only hope that ours and the peoples views can help with change to surrogacy laws.

Sincerely

Vanessa Draper

*Vanessa Draper*