MEETING AND ENGAGING WITH AUSTRALIAN SURROGATES

FAMILIES THRU SURROGACY AUSTRALIAN CONFERENCE

3rd/4th JUNE 2017 VIC UNI CONVENTION CENTRE, MELBOURNE
SURROGACY IN AUSTRALIA IS IMPOSSIBLE!
LINGO AND STATS

IP - Intended Parent
IM - Intended Mother
IF - Intended Father
FS - Fertility Specialist
GS - Gestational Surrogate
TS - Traditional Surrogate

40 surrogates (birthed)
- 55% no existing relationship with IP’s
- 10% TS
- 40% long distance relationship (>2 hours)
- 73% vaginal deliveries
- >60% birthed in public system
- Over 1/3 carried for gay dads
- 20 births since last conference
MY STORY

• Mummy of 3 kids- 6yo, 4.5yo twins
• Married for almost 14 years
• Started thinking about surrogacy late 2012
• Met IP’s early 2013, journey officially started May
• Approval received October 2013
• November 2013- failed transfer
• March 2014- successful transfer
• Uneventful Pregnancy
• Birthed November 2014
• SPO Granted May 2015
• New IP’s July 2015
• Approval granted June 2015
FINDING A SURROGATE

1. Family and Friends
2. Australian Surrogacy Community Facebook Page
3. Fertility Connections website
   www.fertilityconnections.com.au
4. Surrogacy Sisters
5. Surrogate Finder
6. Find A Surrogate Mother
SURROGACY ETIQUETTE

• Be open and honest
• Share your story
• Don’t bulk message surrogates/IP’s- ask permission to chat
• Be upfront if you are speaking to more than one surrogate/couple
• If it’s not going to work, say so!
• Treat your surrogate like a person, not a uterus
TRUST YOUR GUT

• Come to terms with inability to carry
• Same values about surrogacy
• Little or no support
• No financial stability (on both sides)
• Desperation/forcing the relationship
• Surrogates asking for payment/gifts
• Parties wanting to rush into arrangements
• IP’s wanting to micro manage pregnancies
SURROGACY PROCESS

Once you have found your surrogate...

Independent Obstetric Assessment
Surrogate Referral to Clinic
Clinic Consultation
Counselling (Clinic or external)
Psychological Assessments
Independent Legal Advice
Approval by Ethics Committees/Panels
Transfer
Birth
SPO Granted
SURROGACY RESOURCES

GENERAL SURROGACY INFORMATION- AUSTRALIA & OVERSEAS
Surrogacy Australia
Families Through Surrogacy
VARTA- Victorian Assisted Reproductive Treatment Authority
Finding A Surrogate- PDF Booklet

SURROGACY IN VICTORIA
Patient Review Panel (VIC)
MIVF Surrogacy Booklet (Flow Chart)

GAFFNEY LAW
Australian Surrogacy Handbook

GAY INTENDED PARENTS AUSTRALIA
Facebook Page run by Mike, Glenn and Lukas

AUSTRALIAN SURROGACY COMMUNITY
Facebook Page

AUSTRALIAN SURROGATES SUPPORT
Facebook Page

IDENTILAB
Parentage DNA Testing
IMPORTANT POINTS

• Bodily Autonomy
• Legalities
• Payment
• Advertising
• Surrogates can pull out at any time
SURROGACY IN AUSTRALIA IS POSSIBLE!
OVERWHELMED?

Don’t be!
Be open- It can be hard, we know.
Be patient.
It’s not all serious.
Don’t define yourself because you need surrogacy.
Take a chance!