

Review of Human Rep. Act Egg Donor perspective.

Sent: Saturday, February 10, 2018 4:46 PM

To: HRTSR

Cc: Alicia [REDACTED]

Dear Assoc. Professor Allan:

RE: Comment - WA Human Reproductive Technology Act 1991 & The Surrogacy Act 2008.

I write to submit comment on the above review.

I am a two-time egg donor to separate couples (each good friends). My husband and I chose not to have children, but witness each day the joy that children bring.

We also witnessed the heartache experienced by our friends. Each month, I was discarding an egg we didn't value, which our friends might value very much. I don't mean to sound flippant about an important decision, but there was no dilemma for us; these are the type of people whom one would want to be raising families. We offered my eggs (a joint decision and gift) to the first couple. They have a daughter, now 18. The second couple asked us five years later; they now have a son, 13. It is an honour and a privilege to have helped two families get started.

In each case, I declined any sort of payment, whether directly or in kind. However, I urge the authorities to allow West Australian egg donors to be paid. The only options are to rely on altruism, or spend tens of thousands travelling abroad (as other friends have done). Compensation would be mutually beneficial to donors and recipients alike.

Infertility is already emotionally crippling, without the financial devastation to boot. Our first egg recipients felt they worked solely to pay the IVF bills; still, they felt propelled to keep going. These people are not hankering after exotic holidays or foreign sports cars; they yearn to start a family or complete one.

Just as heartbreaking is the issue of secondary infertility; they are shunted to the back of the line and told to count their blessings. It's as though the world has only so much compassion in store, and they've exhausted their claim.

I respectfully urge the relevant authorities to consider compensation for egg donation and surrogacy.

I have written a book (see below) on my egg donation experience. It includes input from Angela, our first recipient. I'd be delighted to send some copies.

I would welcome the chance to testify, as it were, should this be an option.

Best wishes,
Alicia Young

ALICIA YOUNG
JOURNALIST. AUTHOR. SPEAKER.

AUTHOR:

The Mother Teresa Effect: What I learned volunteering for a saint.

Two Eggs, Two Kids: An egg donor's account of friendship, infertility & secrets

The Savvy Bride's Guide: Simple ways to a stylish & graceful wedding

The Savvy Bride's Guide: Your wedding checklist

The Savvy Girl's Guide to Grace: small touches with big impact - at home, work & in love.

2016:

GRAND PRIZE, London Book Festival (run by US company)

GRAND PRIZE, Great Midwest Book Festival. (Mother Teresa Effect)
WINNER, 10th Nat. Indie Excellence Awards (Two Eggs, Two Kids)
SILVER MEDALIST, 20th Indep. Pub. Awards (Two Eggs, Two Kids)
R/UP, San Francisco Book Festival (The Savvy Bride's Guide)
WINNER, Northern California Book Festival (Mother Teresa Effect)
WINNER, Southern California Book Festival (Mother Teresa Effect)

2013-2015:

See THIRTEEN MORE awards! <http://aliciayoung.net/media/>