

of payment to surrogate mothers. Forty percent would pay the surrogate mother her medical expenses plus an agreed fee. Seventy four percent would be prepared to pay her medical expenses only. Only 17% thought there should be no payment at all. Commissioner Scott said:

We are beginning to see the emergence of hard information about community attitudes to surrogate motherhood. This should assist informed public debate and enable us to move away from conjecture and uninformed speculation. The more that information of this kind can be produced, the more likely it is that parliaments and the public will develop confidence about the right paths to follow in dealing with unprecedented medical and scientific developments in human reproduction.

The extensive analysis in the report shows the trend of opinions within age groups, within groups of married and unmarried persons, across a variety of religions, by reference to federal voting intentions and by reference to personal experience of infertility. Special attention was paid to the opinions of residents of New South Wales and young persons. A total of 2 476 people aged 14 and over were surveyed in all states of Australia.

On the most controversial question of all, namely whether a surrogacy agreement should be enforced against a surrogate mother who changes her mind and refuses to surrender the child, over one-third of the population took the view that the commissioning couple should have first claims to the child. Support for the surrogate mother was slightly less at 26% while 25% considered that a court should decide the matter.

The Commission's Report forms part of its project on on surrogate motherhood which in turn is part of

its major inquiry into all aspects of human artificial conception. The Commission's Report on human artificial insemination was published in July 1986. It expects to publish a major public discussion paper on in vitro fertilisation in a matter of weeks and a similar paper on surrogate motherhood in the near future. After a period for public consultation, reports on both subjects will be produced by the Commission.

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correction

In the previous issue of *Reform*, the following sentence appeared in the second column of p 63:

The former Opposition spokesman on Communications Mr Ian McPhee also wants a more regulatory controlled approach to media ownership.

It should have read:

The former Opposition spokesman on Communications Mr Ian Macphee attempted to secure a more controlled approach to media ownership.

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letters to the editor

This letter was received from Mr Tim Rattenbury, Co-ordinator of Legal Research, Law Reform Branch, Office of the Attorney General, New Brunswick, Canada.

Before making two very small points of criticism of your publication, I would like to congratulate you on the consistently high quality of 'Reform'. I find it interesting and informative, and consider it in many ways the most useful document that I receive on a regular basis.