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Preparing for Egg Donation & Surrogacy

Syd/Mel/Auckland February 2020

Overview

- Donor availability
- Surrogate availability
- Australian or OS surrogacy?
- Surrogacy Australia Support Service
- Differences By Country
- Budgetting & ways to control costs
- Tips on Choosing Providers
- Medical & psychological preparation
- Ethical considerations
- Embryo creation & shipping
- Birth certificates, Citizenship, Passports

Key Fact

Surrogacy, IVF and Egg Donation are emotionally and financially stressful

Egg Donor Options - Australia

Self-recruited/ Known

friend or family member

Egg Donation Aust (community forum)

(requires signif legwork)

OS Donor Agencies

Global Egg Donors

Travelling Donors

Manor IVF

(‘fly-in’ donors meeting AU Identity-release requirements)

Egg Donor Options - Overseas

Self-recruited/ Known

friend or family
member

Travel to OS clinic

IVF Clinic

Many OS clinics
maintain 'pre-
screened' donor
databases

(more limited choices)

Surrogacy
Agencies

Some have
donor
databases

Donor
Agencies

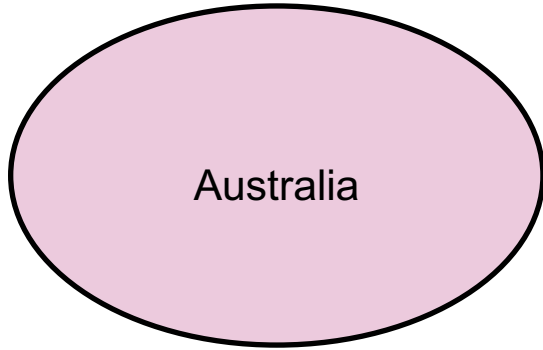
Wide range

(If want specific
characteristics or
'fly-in donor')

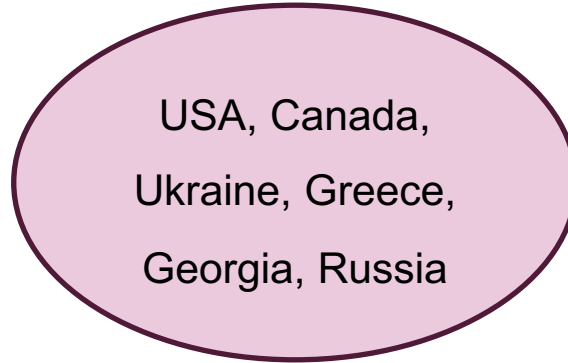
Surrogacy Availability



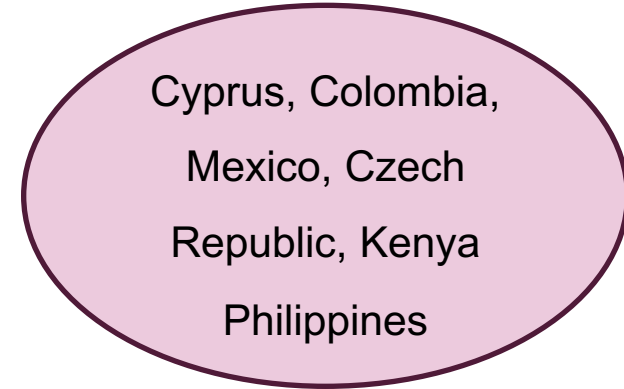
Self-managed



Managed
(legal framework)



Managed
(no legal framework)



DO I ENGAGE AT HOME OR OVERSEAS?

AUSTRALIA



- Altruistic
- Far longer process to find surrogate and achieve approval
- Need to welcome surrogate and her family into yours
- Significant time commitment in getting to know and supporting surrogate
- long-term relationship
- needs patience & resilience
- Significant financial cost (\$45,000 - \$90,000)

Look Seriously at Australia if....



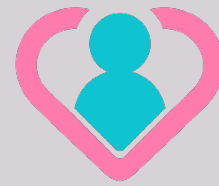
- You can wait a few years to have a first/subsequent child
and /or
- You have someone who has offered to carry
- You have patience
- You are prepared to use donor eggs if you are >35 years
- You are prepared to put significant time into the process (get to know surrogate, counselling, cook meals, attend appointments, child care)

Look Seriously at International if....



- You are an older IP (>40 years)
- You would prefer to have a child within 12-18 months
- You have run out of patience with Australian IVF
- You don't have time/interest to invest into relationship building
- You want a tightly screened surrogate
- You want to maximise success rates

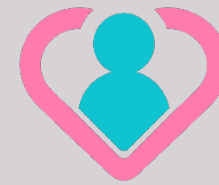
Surrogacy Australia Support Service – What is it?



Surrogacy
Australia

- Pre-screened surrogate
- No need to 'sell' yourself in online forums
- ongoing, pre-paid counselling for up to 12 months post birth
- Mentor sessions & follow up
- Guidance for how to successfully 'surrogate' in first six months
- recommendations of clinics, counsellors and lawyers
- Smooth connection with the surrogacy communities in each state
- Surrogate expense management
- Expense calculator and guidance on expected costs
- helps with checkpoints and acts as intermediary if needed

Surrogacy Australia Support Service Update



Surrogacy
Australia

- Launch Jan 2019
- first surrogate match July 2019.
- Engaged a social media resource to raise awareness
- 7 surrogate applications in Nov 2019
- 4 surrogate applications in Dec 2019
- 50 IP applications in Yr 1
- 22 IPs currently in 'the pool'
- 16 IP applications incomplete
- Often take 3 months to complete all screening
- Surrogate receive IP profiles and has 2 weeks to decide who to get to know.
- IP receives surrogate's Written and Expectations Profile and Expenses Calculator

Differences By Country

Country	Eligibility	On Birth Cert	Binding contract	Guarantee Programs?	Surrogate match time
Australia	All	Both IPs	x	x	12 mths +
US	All	Both IPs	√	1	4 – 6 mths
Canada	All	Both IPs	√	x	12 mths +
Greece	Hetero couple, single women	Both IPs	√	x	1 mth
Ukraine	Hetero married	Both IPs	√	√	1 - 2 mths
Georgia	Hetero couple	Both IPs	√	√	1 - 2 mths
Cyprus	All	Male IP	x	√	1 mth
Colombia	Gay single/ couple	Male IP	√	√	6 mths

USA



35 years experience

Strict surrogate screening

IVF clinic success rates are audited www.sart.org

Usually need to engage with a

- Surrogacy agency
- IVF clinic
- Lawyer (for you and surrogate)

Open to all

Child receives US passport

Quick exit time post birth



PROs

- Altruistic model
- Good IVF clinics
- Welcoming legal framework
- Good surrogate support

CONs

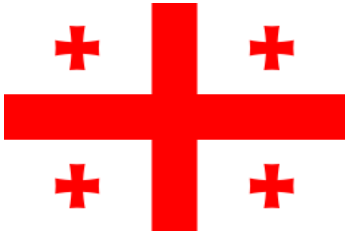
- Huge influx last 4 years from foreigners
- A dire shortage of medically & psychologically suitable donors & surrogates
- Long wait times to match
- high surrogate drop-out/ poor success rates

UKRAINE



- Egg donors must be anonymous
- Hugely Increased demand
- Number of providers quadrupled
- Specific medical indication letter
- Good screening & medical care
- Prices rising significantly

GEORGIA



Pros

Egg donors must be known
Good IVF success rates
Stable protective laws
No Visa required
Good surrogate availability
Low costs
Guarantee programs

Cons

- Open only to heterosexual couples
- Shipped embryos need significant paperwork
- Six week exit time post birth

CYPRUS



PROs

- Gay friendly
- Guarantee program is standard
- English spoken well everywhere
- Full insurance included for surrogate and child
- 15 years IVF experience w surrogacy
- Gender selection available

CONs

- IVF clinics are in Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus,
- A defacto state recognised only by Turkey
- No surrogacy laws
- Surrogates are not from Cyprus

COLOMBIA



PROs

- Altruistic surrogacy laws
- Gay friendly
- Guarantee program is standard
- Full insurance included for surrogate and child

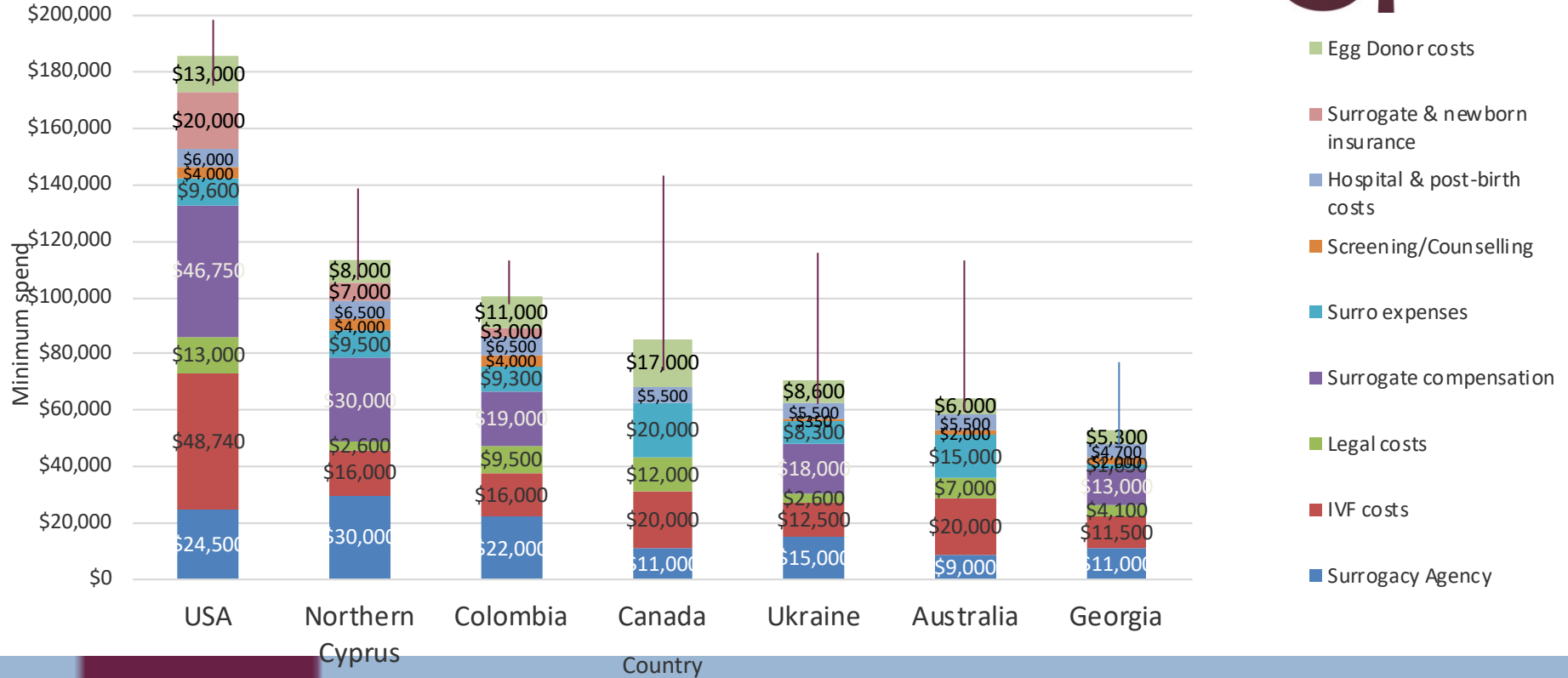
- Colombian passport granted

CONs

- New
 - No Australian births to date
 - No feedback from completed parents
- Egg Donors anonymous
- Surrogate is on birth certificate (can be removed later)
- Only one known surrogacy provider

BUDGETING & COST CONTAINMENT

Egg Donor Surrogacy Costs



These are estimated costs. As the variation bars show, these costs can be significantly higher. Costs can be lower when you have embryos already

Cost Considerations



Compare to others

- Obtain quotes from different providers

Payment stages

- What % up-front?
- Are payments milestone-based?
- What milestones are used?
 - Surrogate match
 - First embryo transfer
 - Confirmed pregnancy
 - Week 12
 - Week 24
 - Birth

Your funds

- If you are not happy with service, what refunds are available?
- Who holds your funds?
 - Agency or third-party escrow account

CHOOSING A PROVIDER

Key Tips

- Compare costs with other providers in that country
- How transparent are they about their partners and fees
- Talk to parents who have completed with that provider
- Beware providers who want you to transfer two embryos at a time
- Beware paying significant amounts before being matched with a surrogate
- If in a non-English country, do they provide translators and translated medical reports?

Choosing Providers

Surrogates

Ensure you can meet your surrogate upfront

Understand

- how your provider conducts screening and what % are approved
- how often you can have surrogate contact
- what your surrogate will be paid and when

Service Provision

- What rights do you have if you or your surrogate are unhappy with service provision?
- what support is provided after the birth?

Medical, Logistical & Psychological Prep

How Can we Prepare?

- Consider friend/family member as egg donor or surrogate
- Get semen analysis done
- Save money

GAY Singles/Couples

- Review Egg donor options

HETERO Couples

- Consider fertility counselling to deal with grief/loss issues
- If have embryos
 - Understand IVF clinic release process
 - Obtain embryology reports

Ethical Considerations

Donors

- Understand the differences between known, identity-release and anonymous donors

Children

- Talk about your attitudes to medical disability & termination
- Be prepared for age-appropriate disclosure to your child about how they were created

Surrogates

- Insist on surrogate details (age, number of children, where she comes from, where she will live)
- Understand your surrogate's motivations

Embryo Creation & Shipping



- Embryos can be shipped offshore if
 - you have made embryos but cant locate Aust surrogate
 - You want to make embryos with local egg donor but not sure if you will locate Aust surrogate
- Aim to ship at least 3 Day 5 blastocysts
- Need to engage reputable Cryoshipper
- Shipping costs vary AU\$3300 - \$3900
- May be less if shared shipment
- Aust IVF clinics prefer you not to mention 'Surrogacy' on the paperwork

Parentage, Citizenship, Passports

Country	Process	Comments	Legal requirements	Apply for Aust Citizenship & passport	Average exit time post birth
US	Court order	Travel home on US passport	2 US lawyers	In Australia	2.5 weeks
Canada	Court order or administrative	Travel home on Canada passport	2 Canadian lawyers	In Australia	3 weeks
Greece	Court order		1 Greek lawyer	In Greece	6 weeks
Ukraine	Administrative		none	In Ukraine	6 weeks
Georgia	Administrative		none	In Georgia/Turkey	6 weeks
Cyprus	none		none	In Cyprus	?
Colombia	Administrative		1 lawyer	In Colombia	4-12 weeks

Under Australian law, OS surrogate remains legal parent

Note Growing Families has a service to assist with citizenship & passports. Contact us at 24 weeks gestation

Customised Support



Help you decide on a country/ provider

More hand-holding/concierge style service

Reliable, proven providers to meet your budget

Wide range of options

One hour or complete journey support

Email sam@growingfamilies.org or visit www.growingfamilies.org/customised-support/