

## **Notes of meeting with Carolyn Mason, Canterbury University**

**16 August 2012**

### **Attendees:**

Dr John Angus, Chair, ACART

Carolyn Mason, Philosophy Department, Canterbury University

### **In attendance:**

Betty-Ann Kelly, Senior Policy Analyst, ACART Secretariat

Note: The meeting was originally intended to include other staff members. Because of flight delays, the meeting was with Carolyn only. Carolyn provided her own feedback and that from colleagues.

The points below reflect points made by individuals.

- I agree with the proposals, including the need to focus in this review on discrimination in the eligibility criteria.
- “Medical reasons” criteria appear too general: for example, a desire to avoid health risks associated with pregnancy is a medical reason for using a surrogate.
- It is not clear whether one or two parents must provide gametes.
- The requirement that both partners in a lesbian relationship must meet the medical criteria appears discriminatory.
- ECART would need to decline a surrogacy application where a resulting child did not have a genetic link to at least one intending parent. Yet, there are situations where approving such an application would be ethically justified. However, changing guidelines to give ECART more discretion carries risks as well as benefits, and would need careful consideration that goes beyond the remit of this discussion document.