

**From:** CHRIS & SHELLY [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, 19 April 2005 10:36 AM  
**To:** Committee, FHS (REPS)  
**Subject:** Intercountry adoption – Terms of Reference

To Whom it may concern,

I am very interested in voicing an opinion on inconsistencies between processes for approval in intercountry adoption between states and territories and in benefits to birth parents compared to adoptive parents.

1. My wife and I have decided on intercountry adoption as a way to start a family as natural conception is not possible. We applied in Qld but were shocked to learn the adoption process in place. As a result of this process, and the comparative short time frame expected in SA, we were forced to move interstate to become parents within a reasonable time frame (still 2-3 years). The expected time frame in Qld was anywhere from 5-10 yrs. This inconsistency between states disadvantages many prospective parents who are unable to move interstate for various reasons, and the ones who can are faced with the expense and difficulty of moving away from the support of family and friends.

2. How can benefits and entitlements differ between that allowed for birth parents and adoptive parents? Do birth children cost more to feed and clothe? Do they cost more to educate? Is childcare more expensive for birth children?

From my experience ALL children require care that costs money, and in many cases adopted children from overseas require care that is more expensive. Add to this the \$30 000 plus that adoptive parents have had to 'find' to adopt a child and you can see that there are few reasons to favour parents who have been able to have children naturally.

I cannot see any reason to discriminate against parents who find themselves in a position where intercountry adoption is the only way in which they are able to have a family.

I hope this viewpoint helps you to make an ethical decision.

Regards,

Chris Wild  
[REDACTED]