

The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Family and Human Services

Inquiry into Adoption of Children from Overseas

Submission

**1. *Any inconsistencies between state and territory approval processes for overseas adoptions***

The Australian Government can better assist Australians by addressing those inconsistencies which result in people having to move interstate, such as age limits, and countries available. A centralised system may provide a better outcome for couples affected. At present the Queensland system appears overwhelmed by the number of applicants – surely an increase in the capacity of the department to deal with this (ie increasing staff numbers) would be helpful.

**2. *Any inconsistencies between the benefits and entitlements provided to families with their own birth children and those provided to families who have adopted children from overseas.***

Consideration of the huge cost to Australia of IVF programs is relevant here, not to mention the regular costs associated with childbirth. The adoption community suffers comparatively in terms of government support. Lack of access to the \$3000 baby bonus (because of the age restriction) is unfair. This is compounded by the fact that one adoptive parent is required to stay at home for the first twelve months after the adoption, giving up paid employment, on top of the enormous cost involved with travelling to the child's country of origin and paying a significant fee to that country's government/adoption agency. The baby bonus would help significantly.

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