

SUBMISSION NO. 208

AUTHORISED: 10-08-05 *Indith*

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, 20 July 2005 12:54 AM
To: Committee, FHS (REPS)
Subject: InterCountry Adoption

To The Committee,

I've been dreaming of being a mother for 20 years and have been trying to make that happen for the last 15 years. 10 of those with my husband.

We live in Victoria and have tried everything to have a child from IVF to looking into Surrogacy.

Now we wish to Adopt from overseas but the fee's are something that is making it hard for us. We are a single income family, my husband is the only one working, I choose to stay at home and look after the house and eventually our children. I have not taken any type of government money to do this, so paying bills and other daily costs make it hard for us to afford up to \$30,000 to adopt a child to make our family complete.

I just found out that my sister in law is pregnant and it shattered me, I am happy for her, but the pain of not being able to have a child of my own is very hard to bare. It's something that you cannot understand unless you were in that position and that is something I would never wish on anyone.

TV ads, holiday deals, and many other things are geared towards families and for those of us who cannot have children but so desperately want them its like a slap in the face, especially because adoption could be made easier for us.

I think that the government should make every state and territory the same in regards to adoption fee's, these fee's should be abolished as people who can have their own children do not have to pay to be parents, and considering that we also have to pay travel expenses and fee's to the relinquishing country, as well as have our lives turned inside out to be looked at and studied to make sure we are good enough to be parents and all of this can take up to 2 or 3 years and sometimes even longer. If there does have to be fee's then they should be as low as possible and the lowest fee's for Australia total about \$2000- which should still be able to be paid in manageable amounts rather than in a lump sum.

Another thing is the \$3000 baby bonus, I feel that it is unfair at the moment as some people can not adopt a child under 2 years old because of the country they choose to adopt from or because of other reasons, yet that doesn't make them any less of a new parent so they deserve the baby bonus money, maybe even more than some people because of the fact that adoption families have gone through so much just to adopt a child. I mean other couple do not have to be looked at and scrutinized as much as people like me. Plus many younger babies are already over 26 weeks old when they are put up for adoption in other countries or have to wait until they are at least 6 months before they can be adopted. So many adoptive parents miss out on money that they really need to help them with the expenses of a new child, especially if they have not had a child before.

Please realize that this is the last chance that some of us have to be a family and the right for every person to be able to have a child of their own either biological or adopted is something that should be respected and if you can help then you should. The government wanted Australians to

have more children and for those of us who do want to but have to adopt from overseas to start our families should be helped as much as possible.

I hope that none of my 18 nieces or nephews ever have to deal with not being able to have a child, but if they did I would hope that by then the government would have realized that families are important and should be helped especially in regards to cost of adoption.

Because we can not afford to adopt from the countries where young babies are looking for parents we have to adopt an older child, so I'll never know the feeling of holding a small baby, of teaching that baby to walk or hearing his or her first words, I don't think that choice should be taken away from anyone but especially those who are infertile just because they can not afford to pay all the fees.

Basically adoption should be made as easy as having biological children, because people who adopt love their children just as much as people who have given birth to their own biological children.

Thank you.

Mrs K Boswall

Waiting

I haven't met you yet or seen your face,
but in my heart you hold a place.
My hopes grow with each passing day,
even though you're miles away.
I know you're there waiting for me,
as I am here waiting to see,
the child God has sent from above,
to make me a mother and share all my love.

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Dreams

I dream of you all day
Think of you while I sleep
Thoughts of you are always with me...
Dreaming of the day that we meet.

I wonder about the little things,
What color are your eyes?
What makes you smile?
What makes you cry?

Who do you call mommy?
And is she good to you?
I wonder do you need me...
As much as I need you?

I promise you I'm looking,
And one day soon we'll meet.
Until then she'll take care of you...
And I'll see you in my dreams.

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