



PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA

MEDIA RELEASE

House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into local adoption

Issue date: 28 March 2018

New review into barriers to local adoption

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has commenced an inquiry into local adoption, with a view to establishing whether there are any unnecessary barriers to adoptions in Australia.

In 2015-16, 46,448 children were in out-of-home care. During the same period, only 278 adoptions were finalised. The chair of the Committee, Ms Julia Banks MP, wants to better understand why there are not more adoptions in Australia.

“The children of Australia are our future. We need to be acting in their best interests at all times. This Committee will review the very low number of adoptions in Australia and find out whether our system is indeed working in the best interest of our children,” the chair said.

“I am concerned that there may be unnecessary barriers to local adoption, and if that is the case the Committee wants to better understand what those barriers are and how they can be overcome.”

The Committee is receiving submissions and is planning a number of public hearings so that it can hear what is happening in relation to adoption policy in various Australian jurisdictions.

The Committee will accept written submissions, addressing one or more of the terms of reference, until **Tuesday, 15 May 2018**.

Further information about the inquiry, including the terms of reference, is available on the [inquiry webpage](#). Information about how to make a submission to an inquiry can be obtained from the [Parliament of Australia webpage](#).

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