

## World Families Australia (WFA)

PO Box 2130 Kent Town 5071

*The people of WFA membership have chosen to adopt. They do not feel the need for the child to have come from their biological roots for that child to be loved and included in their family totally and unconditionally.*

### **INQUIRY INTO INTER-COUNTRY ADOPTION**

#### **Represented by:**

**Sandi Petersen** (Vice President, Chair of Adoption Support Sub-Committee - WFA)

Anne Sanders (President – WFA)

Morgan Smith (Member – Management Committee - WFA)

Matthew Wright-Simon (Member - Adoption Support Committee – WFA)

#### **Information about World Families Australia (WFA)**

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WFA has been operating as an adoption support group since 1972. The organisation has diverse membership, with families adopting children of all ages, from many different countries. WFA also provides aid and sponsorship programs for children in 11 countries.

#### **Issues of Concern**

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1. It is important that state departments have a positive attitude to adoption and adoption support networks. We feel the SA department is working towards this goal.
2. There is a need for authorities responsible for adoption to focus on unconditional support for the journey to parenthood rather than simply assessment for suitability.
3. The introduction to community services for pregnant women is not similarly available to adoptive parents.
4. Choosing to create or extend a family through adoption is costly in comparison to creating a family through birth.
5. Maternity allowance should cover all inter-country adopted children, not just those under two years of age.
6. Differences between the states that WFA are aware of that create inequity include different fee structures, different adoption programmes and different eligibility criteria.
7. Immunisation is a requirement for inter-country adoption, but a parental choice for biological children.