



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

22 September 2005

Investigating international adoptions in Sydney

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Family and Human Services Committee, Bronwyn Bishop, today announced public hearings into international adoptions in Sydney this Friday (23 September).

Submissions have been received from all the major intercountry adoption groups in New South Wales as well as from the State Government. A submission has also been received from a group of young adults in NSW who have themselves been adopted from overseas.

“The range of witnesses will allow the Committee to meet representatives of all the participants in the international adoption process – government, parents & families and those adopted” Mrs Bishop said.

The public hearings will include community statements on Friday from 12.00 noon until 1.00 pm. Members of the public may give their views on international adoptions directly to the Committee for several minutes each. All are welcome according to the Chairman.

“For many people, writing a submission can be an arduous task, but anyone can speak to us for a few minutes on what they feel in their hearts,” Mrs Bishop said.

The terms of reference for the inquiry include the inconsistencies in approval processes between states and territories and the inconsistencies in benefits and entitlements between adoptive and birth parents.

Public hearing schedule

Venue: NSW Legislative Council Committee Meeting Room, Level 1, 139 Macquarie Street, Sydney (not NSW Parliament House)

Friday, 23 September

9.00am – 9:30am	Private citizens
9.30am – 10:15am	Intercountry Adoption Support Network
10.15am – 11.00am	Australian Families for Children
11.15am – 12 noon	Families with Children from China
12 noon - 1.00pm	Community Statements
1.30pm – 2.15pm	Australian Society for Intercountry Aid for Children
2.15pm – 3.00pm	NSW Committee on Adoption and Permanent Care

For media interview: Contact Damien Jones on **0409 147 247** at the electorate office of the Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP.

For information on the public hearing: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566 or email fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or visit:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/adoption/index.htm>