

**Sent:** Thur 14/04/2005 3:09 PM  
**From:** Mandy [REDACTED]  
**To:** Committee, FHS (REPS)  
**Subject:** Overseas Adoption Submission

Dear Sir/Madam,

I strongly oppose any move by the Australian Federal Government to ban Gay and Lesbian people from adopting children from overseas. This is blatant discrimination towards same-sex couples and singles.

What is important in every child's life is the comfort and security that comes from loving parents, regardless of gender or sexual identity.

There are so many children in the world without the security and opportunities available to them in their current context. Those orphaned through the tsunami disaster or poverty and deprivation in many third-world countries are being denied loving and stable family lives due to arcane attitudes and legislation, both of which clearly show a lack of humanitarian concern.

Children need love, financial security, emotional fulfilment and nurturing. It is my belief that any person or couple who believes and demonstrates they can fulfil these fundamental needs should be considered as potential adoptive parents.

It says a lot about the strong character of people, heterosexual or homosexual, who are willing to put their lives up to the light for thorough inspection by government agencies; who go through all the rigours of red-tape and hoop jumping, as well as the huge financial outlay associated with overseas adoption just so their suitability can be ascertained. These people make the commitment that they will endure the emotional and financial roller coaster associated with adoption, therefore, they deserve as much government assistance as possible especially with regards to expediting the whole process.

Considering all this I urge you to do what you can in speeding overseas adoption processes up, and granting same-sex couples the same access to overseas adoption as their heterosexual counterparts.

Regards,

Mandy Crocker

[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED] NSW [REDACTED]