



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

17 October 2005

Investigating international adoptions - Perth Public Hearing

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Family and Human Services Committee, Bronwyn Bishop, today announced public hearings into international adoptions in Perth this Tuesday (18 October).

Submissions have been received from all the major intercountry adoption groups in Western Australia as well as from the State Government.

'The inquiry has obviously struck a chord with those seeking intercountry adoptions, given the number of submissions we have received. The Committee has received many heart wrenching stories from people facing challenges in adopting children from overseas through the different state and territory processes.' Mrs Bishop said.

This hearing presents an opportunity to hear further from Western Australians about how intercountry adoptions are handled in the West.

Importantly, the public hearings will include community statements on Tuesday from 12:00noon until 12:45pm. Members of the public may drop in to give their views on intercountry 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 includes 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: Commonwealth Offices, Level 39 Stock Exchange Plaza, 2 The Esplanade, Perth

Tuesday, 18 October

10:30am – 11.30am

11:30am – 12:00nn

12:00nn – 12:45pm

1:15pm – 1:45pm

1:45pm – 2:15pm

2:15pm – 2.45pm

2:45pm

Western Australian Government

Adoption Support for Families and Children

Community Statements

Adoptions International of Western Australia

Adoption Research & Counselling Services

Private citizen

Close of public hearing

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>