



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

BB050301

6 May 2005

Public Hearing Inquiry Into Adoption of Children from Overseas

Parliament House Canberra, Monday 9 May 2005

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family & Human Services will hold the first public hearing for its Adoption of Overseas Children Inquiry in Canberra on 9 May 2005.

Mrs Bishop, Chairman of the Committee, said that the Committee will be exploring how the Australian Government can better help those Australians who are seeking to adopt or who have adopted children from overseas.

'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. People who have successfully adopted children from overseas are then finding that they are not eligible for the same benefits to which birth parents are entitled. The Committee will be listening to such parents and prospective parents at the hearing on Monday and also talking to others as the inquiry progresses' Mrs Bishop said.

At the hearing the Committee will also take evidence from government officials responsible for the Commonwealth's role in intercountry adoption processes and to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare which collects statistics on intercountry adoptions.

'Further hearings are planned around the country to allow the Committee to talk to state and territory welfare agencies as well as to more people going through the intercountry adoption processes said Mrs Bishop.

PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULE

Venue: House of Representatives Committee Room 1R5, Parliament House, Canberra.

9.30 am – 10.00 am	Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
10.00 am – 11.15 am	Adoptive Families Association of the ACT (including parents of adopted children)
11.30 am – 12.15 pm	Attorney-General's Department
12.15 pm – 1.00 pm	Department of Immigration and Multicultural and Indigenous Affairs.
1.00 pm	End of program

For media interview: Please contact Damien Jones on **0409 147 247** at the electorate office of the Committee chairman the Hon Mrs Bronwyn Bishop MP.

For further information on the public hearing: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566 or email fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or visit the website at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs