



# Bronwyn Bishop MP

*Chairman*

House of Representatives Standing Committee on  
Family & Human Services

## MEDIA RELEASE

11 October 2005

### Investigating international adoptions in Canberra

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Family and Human Services Committee, Bronwyn Bishop, today announced public hearings into international adoptions in Canberra this Wednesday (12 October).

Over 250 submissions have been received to the inquiry from individuals, all the major intercountry adoption groups across Australia as well as from state and territory Governments.

“With public hearings already held in most states and territories, the committee is meeting representatives of all the participants in the intercountry adoption process – government, parents & families and those adopted” Mrs Bishop said.

The public hearing in Canberra will allow the committee to take evidence from the New South Wales Government from 10.30 am until 12 noon. The committee has previously heard from the state/territory governments of Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory and the hearing in Canberra will supplement their evidence. Members of the public are welcome to observe proceedings, according to the Chairman.

The hearing will also allow the committee to challenge another state government with evidence given earlier by parents and support groups, especially looking at Commonwealth and state responsibilities within the Hague Convention as it relates to intercountry adoptions.

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:* Parliament House, Canberra – Committee Room 1R3

*Wednesday 12 October*

10.30am – 12noon

New South Wales Government

**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](mailto:fhs.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit:

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