

SUBMISSION NO. 91

AUTHORISED: 25-05-05 *J.R.*

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 21 April 2005 10:28 PM
To: Committee, FHS (REPS)
Subject: Submissions re Intercountry Adoption

I wish to bring to your attention one of the effects of having different legislation for different States and Territories.

In July 2004 my husband and I brought our Thai daughter home to our then home in Victoria. We had two of the three Victorian required social work visits before we relocated to Queensland for work and family reasons in January 2005. We had now had our daughter over six months and by the time we had any fruitful communication from the Qld Dept she had been a family member for nine months.

Queensland has required us to firstly put in an Expression of Interest to Adopt which must be signed by a JP. Extraordinary enough in itself. Secondly, because it was greater than 2 years since our last medicals and referee checks, we were required to redo these. Commonsense tells you that these are requirements needed to satisfy the criteria for suitable applicants. We had quite obviously satisfactorily fulfilled these requirements in Victoria. There is no point to requalifying AFTER, not only allocation, but placement. These requirements were time consuming and costly.

In fact, I made the comment, sarcastically, that if I had suddenly developed some deadly disease would they take our daughter away from us. The reply I received was that it would have to be taken into consideration!

If the States were uniform, we would have had the required social work visits and then proceeded to adoption.

Yours sincerely,

Jeanne Read