



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

14 October 2005

Federal Parliament investigating international adoptions in Adelaide

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Family and Human Services Committee, Bronwyn Bishop, today announced public hearings into international adoptions in Adelaide this Monday (17 October).

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

“The range of witnesses will allow the Committee to meet representatives of all the participants in the international adoption process – government, adoption support groups, parents & families and those adopted” Mrs Bishop said.

The Committee is particularly keen to take evidence from the South Australian Government, especially since it has taken back responsibility for family placements from a non government organisation.

The public hearings will include community statements on Monday from 12:00noon until 1:00pm. 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 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: Adelaide Town Hall, Prince Alfred Room, 128 King William Street, Adelaide

Monday, 17 October

11:00am – 11:30am	Private citizens
11:30am – 12:00nn	Private citizen
12:00nn – 1:00pm	Community Statements
1:30pm – 2:15pm	Private citizen
2:15pm – 2:45pm	World Families Australia Inc
2:45pm – 3:15pm	South Australian Chinese Adoption Support
3:15pm – 4:15pm	South Australian Government
4:30pm – 5:00pm	Association Representing Mothers Separated from their Children by Adoption

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>