

Dee Cridland & AhTee Chia
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31/3/05

TO WHOM IT CONCERNS - HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES STANDING COMMITTEE
ON FAMILY AND HUMAN SERVICES

We have read the terms of reference and now offer our opinion on both points:

1. We believe there needs to be unified adoption policy across all states and territories.

The administration of these policies should continue to be at state/territory level, but the Act and all policies, should be Australian Government designed, incorporating the Antidiscrimination Act, thereby not excluding potentially 'fit parents' from applying and being assessed.

2. We fully support the equal payment of all entitlements for all new parents.

There should be no discrepancy between entitlements whether the son / daughter is a new member of the family biologically or via adoption.

The age of the child should also not be relevant, as the set up costs for a new child into the family are costly, regardless of their age.

Infact, the cost of caring for a child's needs increases as they age - more extra curricular activities, more school resources needed, and the obvious, more expensive basic upkeep!!! This we know from experience as we have three beautiful biological boys, aged 7, 9 & 11.

Thank you for finally seeing to this social injustice. We trust these inconsistencies will now be corrected.

Yours faithfully,

Dee Cridland and AhTee Chia.

