

07.04.05

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Human Services

To the Committee,

Although we live in Australia, by living in Queensland and trying to adopt a child, we feel disadvantaged. We would like to highlight the following:-

*Other Australian States send their applicants files to Agencies in India, with these families being allocated to Indian children. Queensland will not consider working with these Indian Adoption Agencies who are approved by CARA. due to Queensland Adoption Unit reasons. Queensland applicants may request their file be sent to India with little or no chance of being allocated to a child as Queensland has no Agency to accept our files. *How can Agencies be deemed appropriate for some Australian States and not others?*

* Weight issue in Queensland discriminates between adoptive and biological parenting. The Government cannot discriminate against overweight biological parents but feel they have the right to discriminate against adoptive parents.

*Queensland seems to be taking a long time to open new adoption programs with other Hague countries who accept intercountry adoption for their children. Moldova and Bulgaria both have adoption programs with the USA, as Romania has closed its intercountry program. I am sure many couples would consider adopting from these countries. NSW DoCs is asking applicants to volunteer to be the first applicants to send their files to (Hague) countries. *Why are Queenslanders not given the same opportunity?*

We are nervous about writing this submission to you as we do not want to jeopardize our present application before the Queensland Intercountry Adoption Unit. Therefore we ask you to be sensitive about the way our submission is handled. Would it be possible to accept our submission on the undertaking that our name and address is withheld from any of your publications/website etc?

We thank you for taking the time to investigate the differences in International Adoption that occur from one State to another.

Yours faithfully,

[REDACTED]

