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[REDACTED] Qld [REDACTED]14<sup>th</sup> April 2005

The Secretary of the Committee  
Standing committee on Family  
and Human Services.

Dear Sir/Madam

I have been involved with intercountry adoptions for the past nine years, my wife and I have four children our oldest boy 7 from South Korea Twin boys 3 ½ years biological and our youngest girl 21 months also from South Korea. I am the current president and in my fourth year of that position of an intercountry adoption support group. I had to deal with many issues over the last eight years with matters regarding to intercountry adoption.

1. The Queensland system failed to keep up with the number of people applying and on 30<sup>th</sup> June 2002 Queensland closed the system and from that date no one could apply, so they could work thought with the couples on the list old list. The list was reopened on the 12<sup>th</sup> September 2004 for eights weeks only, it was opened due to the pressure put on the government, and to my knowledge no other state has closed adoptions. A number of Queensland couples moved interstate because they could not reapply here and they were getting close to the countries age limit. The states they moved to processed there files and they were able to complete their families, this is an extreme measure for families to go thought.
2. We contently hear that the reasons for the slow processing is due to more adoptive parents applying then there are children requiring adoption, this is true some countries request a number of files and no more are sent until the country requests more. But there are countries who will accept as many files as we wish to send EG. China. Some countries will accept files for older children but Queensland limits this to the age of five years other states will send the files for older children.
3. Each state has different processes and laws regarding adoption a national based laws and rules is required to clean up the difficulties couples in each state face.
4. The federal government has embassies in some of the countries we currently deal with for intercountry adoption would it not be better to countries dealing country to country and not countries having to deal with eight departments in the one country. The day to day running of programs could be done at a state level here but using a common set of rules so where ever you are in Australia. You would be assessed the same.

The problems that we face have been affecting intercountry for over 20 years, couples I had spoken with in the process all those years ago suffered similar problems we still have today.

I am available to give a verbal submission to the committee of my dealing with the government over the last few years if it would help some for the committee in understanding just what adoptive parents go through.

We thank you for the opportunity to express some of our concerns, as it's very important and in the best interests of all the children who are adopted to get this right.

Yours truly,

A thick black horizontal bar redacting the signature of the sender.