

SUBMISSION NO. 153

AUTHORISED: 1-06-05 *Wendy Woodman*

From: Wendy Woodman [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, 8 May 2005 8:08 PM
To: Committee, FHS (REPS)
Subject: Intercountry Adoption

Dear Sir/Madam

Im writing and I guess Im not that optimistic as other emails I have to sent to Politicians fall on deaf ears.

My husband and I are residents of Romsey and have just recently adopted a gorgeous little girl from China.

A little bit about us, we have been residents of Romsey for just over seven years and are 36 years of age. In my late twenties I had three miscarriages and then after this found out we had "unexplained infertility". We then went ahead and tried IVF for a very short time (about a year) but were never confident this would help our circumstances due to previous miscarriages. So we looked into intercountry adoption, after three years of paperwork and waiting on February 28th 2005 we met our little daughter and bought her home to Australia on 12 March 2005.

Our adoption expenses have been over \$25,000. The government has bought in the \$3000 baby bonus to encourage and support Australians to have children and yet they fail to recognize that Myself, Steve and Jasmine are a family unit. To me the government has been very discriminating to the people who form their families by Adoption.

There has been rumours that the federal government may amend this unfair situation and we may be eligible for the \$3000. We miss out because we have already adopted Jasmine. Yet our expenses are still incurring, expenses like medical appointments to specialists that handle Intercountry Adoption Children.

I was also very disappointed to hear that it will be for only children who are under the age of two. Why is this? There is so many little ones coming into Australia who are just toddlers 2 to 3 years of age and the adjustment as having been in an Orphanage all their lives is a little bit harder then younger children, therefore more specialist appointments are needed.

Jasmine turns One on the 28 May. I have attached a picture of Jasmine taken at home three weeks ago. Here is a face of child who is missed out and discriminated against.

Regards Wendy Woodman

