

**SUBMISSION NO. 182**

(Supplementary to Sub No. 173)

AUTHORISED: 18-06-05 *Maureen*

**From:** Maureen A Roberts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, 16 May 2005 8:55 AM  
**To:** Committee, FHS (REPS)  
**Cc:** Stephanie Wilson; Trudy Rosenwald; aiwa; Mahoney  
**Subject:** Inquiry into adoption of children from overseas

Dear Committee Members,

I have been reading the transcript of Monday May 9th public hearing and I am concerned about the focus the inquiry is taking on IVF. I thought that was an inquiry into the adoption of children from overseas by Australian families. While couples who are unable to achieve a life birth by IVF may turn to adoption as a way of creating a family, adoption is not a service for infertile couples. Adoption is a way of giving a safe nurturing family environment to a child who would otherwise not have a family to raise them. It is not about supplying children for infertile couples.

I was very pleased to see that you are examining the barriers to the adoption of older children from overseas and thank you for thinking of these children and their need which is just as great to be placed in a family rather than grow up in an institution or on the streets, While it may be interesting to know the links between IVF and adoption it should not be the focus of this inquiry.

Another matter I would like to draw to you attention is that it has come to my attention that the WA Adoptions Services of the Department for Community Development is unable to cope with the number of approved applicants and the resulting increase in work for Adoption Services in sending off files to the overseas countries and the allocation and placement of the child and the post placement services. Instead of increasing staff and resources or contracting out the services the Department has decided to "raise the bar" in the approval process making an already difficult application process much more difficult for applicants to be approved to adopt by the Adoptions Application Committee. This will effectively restrict the numbers of waiting children in overseas countries who could be adopted by otherwise suitable West Australian families.

Yours sincerely

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