

Australian Families for Children Inc.

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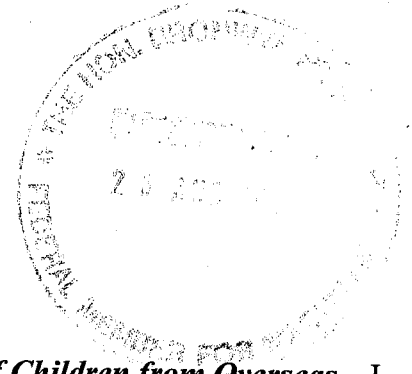
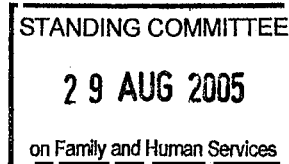
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23 August 2005

The Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP
House of Representatives
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Email: Bronwyn.Bishop.MP@aph.gov.au

657 Pittwater Road
Dee Why NSW 2099



Dear Ms Bishop,

With your recent and ongoing involment with *the Inquiry into Adoption of Children from Overseas* – I am writing to bring to your attention some recent developments in NSW.

On the 1st of July 2005 – the accreditation provisions of the Adoption Act 2000 – finally got proclaimed. The Office of the Children's Guardian has been appointed as the accrediting body, and NGOs such as Australian Families for Children Inc can finally pursue accreditation to deliver intercountry adoption services in NSW.

Australian Families for Children has been operating since 1981, delivering adoption services in NSW, but since the ratification of the Hague convention by Australia in 1998, AFCs services have gradually been curtailed by DoCS due to the fact that AFC is not an accredited body, not withstanding the fact that the accreditation provisions have not yet been proclaimed.

Since th 1st if July 2005 , we have been actively working to prepare our application for accreditation – with the main obstacle to progressing it futher being access to seeding funds to enable us to lodge the application and move on to establishing the agency once accreditation is secured. The NSW Department of Community Services, and the labour Government, have made it clear that no such funding will be available to intercoutry agencies – without which no agency will be in a position of lodging an application for accreditation.

I would welcome the oppotunity of meeting with you to discuss any possibilities for accessing Federal funding to establish an accredited body in NSW, and seek your support for such a move.

I look forward to hearing from you regarding the possibility of such a meeting.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ricky Brisson".

Ricky Brisson (Mrs)
Executive Officer