



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

BB050719

19 July 2005

Inquiry into Overseas Adoptions starts in Queensland

The House of Representatives Family and Human Services Committee Chairman, Bronwyn Bishop, has announced that the Committee will hold public hearings in Brisbane on 21 and 22 July for its inquiry into overseas adoptions.

Mrs Bishop says the committee will examine the inconsistencies in approval processes between Queensland and other states and territories and the differences in benefits and entitlements received by both adoptive and birth parents.

The largest number of submissions to the inquiry came from Queensland. They include claims that couples have decided to leave Queensland and adopt elsewhere due to delays in processing applications. Queensland authorities also demand adoptive parents meet strict height-weight (body mass index) requirements.

"The question of adoptions in Queensland has raised a number of significant issues and that is why the committee will be hearing from Queensland first to better understand the difficulties faced. Adoption groups and parents alike in Queensland have welcomed this inquiry," Mrs Bishop said.

The public hearings will include community statements on Thursday, 21 July between 1:30pm and 2:30pm. Queenslanders who have adopted or want to adopt children are invited to share their views and experiences with the Committee. All are welcome.

"For many people, writing a submission can be an arduous task. But anyone can have their say and express their views for a few minutes on what they feel in their hearts and how things can be changed for the better," Mrs Bishop said.

Public hearing schedule

Venue: Commonwealth Government Offices, 36th floor, Waterfront Place, 1 Eagle Street, Brisbane.

Thursday, 21 July

9:45 am – 10:30 am	Australian Korean Friendship Group
10:30 am – 11:15 am	Australian Council for Adoption
11:30 am – 12:15 pm	Queensland Taiwan Support Group
1:30 pm – 2:30 pm	Community Statements
2:30 pm – 4:15 pm	Private citizens

Friday, 22 July

1:15 pm – 2:30 pm	Private citizens
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MEDIA NOTE: *Some of these adoptive parents are available for interview on Wednesday, 20 July, by contacting the House of Representatives media adviser, Andrew Dawson, on (02) 6277 2063 or mobile 0401 143 724. Other interviews can also be arranged with representatives of the Australian Korean Friendship Group and International Adoptive Families Queensland.*

For media interview with Bronwyn Bishop: contact Damien Jones on **0409 147 247**.

For interviews with adoptive parents: contact the House of Representatives media adviser, Andrew Dawson, on **(02) 6277 2063** or mobile **0401 143 724**.

For information on the public hearing: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566 or email fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or the internet at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/adoption