

**TO MEMBERS OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE ON FAMILY AND  
HUMAN SERVICES:  
COMMONWEALTH PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY INTO ADOPTION OF  
CHILDREN FROM OVERSEAS.**

**How can the Australian Government better assist Australians who are adopting or have adopted children from overseas countries?**

**OVERVIEW**

**Most important considerations for the Australian Government**

- Focus must be on a needy child coming into a **family**. All children have a right to grow up in a natural family of father & mother. Adoption should always be about looking after the good and rights of children, and not the supposed “rights” of those who wish to adopt.
- The best interests of the child should always be the prime consideration.

**General considerations regarding the adoption process:**

- Elimination of dead time. More staff, more resources, more efficient use of time to substantially shorten the pre adoption process.
- Focus on issues relevant to intercountry adoption, otherwise more time is wasted.
- Establish open two way channels of communication to eliminate stress and isolation. Common courtesy is essential.
- Shortening post allocation time by eliminating potential problems.
- Avoidance of judgemental attitudes.
- Elimination of duplication for those parents adopting another child.
- Public Education to significantly improve attitudes towards adoption in order to overcome unfortunate negative connotations. Adoption should be considered **a genuine, honourable and esteemed option.**
- Accountability. Let's raise the standards!
- Consideration by way of tax deductions/rebates towards the huge financial burden of adoptive parents. **This needs to be inclusive of a family's current and previous adoption.**