



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

15 September 2005

Investigating international adoptions in Tasmania

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Family and Human Services Committee, Bronwyn Bishop, today announced public hearings into international adoptions in Hobart this Friday (16 September).

Submissions from Tasmania to the federal parliamentary inquiry include claims that some couples, particularly older ones, in the state face more restrictions on adopting children than anywhere else in Australia. Other submissions claim that adoptive couples are discriminated against by Commonwealth and State regulations.

“Adoption groups and parents in Tasmania have welcomed this inquiry,” Mrs Bishop said.

The public hearings will include community statements on Friday at 12:15pm to 1:45pm. Members of the public may give their views on international adoptions directly to the Committee for several minutes each. All are welcome according to the Chairman.

“For many people, writing a submission can be an arduous task, but anyone can speak to us for a few minutes on what they feel in their hearts,” Mrs Bishop said.

The terms of reference for the inquiry include the inconsistencies in approval processes between states and territories and the inconsistencies in benefits and entitlements between adoptive and birth parents.

Public hearing schedule

Venue: Tasmanian Parliament House, Committee Room 2, Parliament Square, Salamanca Wharf, Hobart

Friday, 16 September

10.30am – 11.30am

11.30am – 12.15pm

12:15 pm – 1:45 pm

1:45 pm – 2:30 pm

2:30 pm – 3:30 pm

Private citizens

Australian African Children’s Aid and Support Association
Inc

Community Statements

Accepting Children Everywhere

Tasmanian Government

For media interview: Contact Damien Jones on **0409 147 247** at the electorate office of the Hon Bronwyn Bishop MP.

For information on the public hearing: contact the Committee secretariat on (02) 6277 4566 or email fhs.reps@aph.gov.au or inquiry website:

<http://www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/adoption/index.htm>