

From: Joseph Simard [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, 18 April 2005 6:32 PM
To: Committee, FHS (REPS)
Subject: Inquiry into Adoption of Children from Overseas

Sir/Madam,

I am adopted. Not from the Australian system. Forty-six years old. Hopelessly in love with my first and only wife with whom we are privileged to be the parents of eight children.

My observations and comments of the system in here in Australia are these:

1. Inordinately bureaucratic
 - a. To a large extent the very nature and definition of family and family life is misunderstood by its government representatives who are subject to the vagaries of public opinion or social agendas of their own.
 - b. Generally they are not fully competent to be able to judge the 'high' matters entrusted to them, particularly so, if single and homosexual people can apply for a child. It's social engineering gone 'mad'.
2. Inordinately expensive
3. Inordinately time consuming
4. Is too important a function to be delegated to a government department to manage properly and requires the efficiency and zeal of community minded organisations (that may incorporate a commercial aspect) to see the system operate to the full benefit of the child and potential parents.
5. Needs to be outsourced to regulated but specialised agencies e.g. similar to employment agencies that are solely resourced and structured to cater for this area. They would be far more nimble, far more able to held accountable and more likely less costly.
6. To a large extent issues (1) & (2) are irrelevant compared to the fundamental premise of who should provide the service in the first place. And certainly governments should NOT. Oversee it...yes! But certainly not operate it.
7. Any regulation would need to be carefully constituted to ensure sound (common sense) principles of who or what type of organisation could validly operate and agency. Frankly, any structure not premised upon the fundamental principles of the Judeo-Christian ethic will be flawed.

This is a great opportunity to get it 'right'. Please keep me informed of the progress and outcome of the enquiry.

Kind regards
Joseph Simard

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED] Q. [REDACTED]