

**From:** Tony & Trudi Watts [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, 20 April 2005 7:19 PM  
**To:** Committee, FHS (REPS)  
**Subject:** Adoption in WA – Senate Inquiry on Adoption of Children from,

**To whom it May Concern**

My husband and I are at the beginning our journey into adoption from overseas and we have notice several little 'bumps' already that if changed may assist the journey to be a smoother one.

Firstly, at no point during the seminars was there any consideration made to parents who are already parents and didn't need the majority of the information that was given even though it was at times interesting to hear affirmations of your own skills. The process needs to made a little smoother for people who are already parents.

Secondly, the cost need not be high if anything consideration should be given in terms of 'baby bonuses' and other allowances as these people are also taxpayers that will not be dipping into these pockets of money which they have help pay into. Therefore, some more consideration must be given to these parents and to-be parents in the way of compensation. Ie Maternity leave when the child arrives back into Australia, baby bonuses like waiving some of the fees in leiu.....

Thirdly, the process discriminates against big people which, I thought was against the law for employment and other such industrial issues, however, in adoption parents cannot have a BMI of 35 or over otherwise their application is completely cancelled. Is this not discrimination?

Further on from these points and from what I have experienced already after the same point some years ago when my husband and I gave up because of the obvious abuse of the system by some people, congratulations on the improvements the Western Australian Government has made so far. Completely different feel and approach to the system so far this time.

Respectfully

Trudi Watts