

The Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Human Services

7 April 2005

Dear Sir,
Inquiry into Adoption of Children from Overseas

RE: Term of Reference 1: Inconsistencies between state and territory approval processes

We had lodged an application to adopt when the adoption register in Queensland was opened last year and we are currently on the Expression of Interest register and in the process of being assessed.

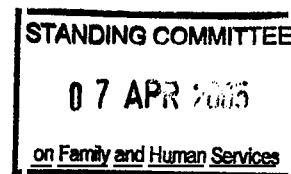
About two years ago we had decided to adopt a child but were told that the adoption register was closed and there was also no chance of us doing so because of the age restriction. We were elated when the register finally opened again in September last year for two months. However, we had grown older and because of our age, we were limited in the countries that we could adopt from and also the age of the child that we could parent as some countries do specify an age limit in its eligibility criteria. We know of other prospective adoptive parents who are also in the same predicament.

The register is currently closed with no indication of when it would be opened again. This means that those who had missed the boat last year would have to postpone their adoption plans indefinitely as it would depend on when the next official invitation for Expression of Interest is made. The other option is for them to move to another state. We understand that Queensland is the only state which opens the register periodically. It seems that in many other states, it is opened continually. If we had lived outside Queensland, we would have been able to make an application years ago and would be enjoying our kids by now!

We realise that the Queensland government had introduced new changes to the adoption procedures last year and that is laudable. However, we hope that in the near future, more staff and other resources could be made available to the adoption Department to enable it to do what the other states are offering, ie providing the opportunity for eager prospective adoptive parents who wish to parent a child to make an application throughout the year.

Thank you for looking into the above issue.

Yours faithfully,
Mark and Lynda Olive



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