



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

16 August 2005

Public Hearing Inquiry into the adoption of overseas children

Parliament House, Canberra

The House of Representatives Family and Human Services Committee will hold a public hearing in Parliament House, Canberra for its inquiry into the adoption of children from overseas.

Committee Chairman, Bronwyn Bishop, says the committee will examine the inconsistencies in approval processes between the Australian Capital Territory and other states and territories and the differences in benefits and entitlements received by adoptive and birth parents. The committee will be exploring how the Australian Government can better help those Australians who are seeking to adopt or who have adopted children from overseas.

"Adoption groups and parents across Australia have welcomed this inquiry," Mrs Bishop said. "It has been reported that in 2003-04 the ACT was the most successful of all the states and territories, with one adoption of an overseas child per 12,462 people in the territory, while at the other end of the scale, NSW had one adoption from overseas per 101,991 people in that state. The committee is keen to explore whether the ACT Government can provide lessons for the other states and territories."

At the hearing the committee will take evidence from government officials responsible for the ACT Government and its intercountry adoption processes, and then private citizens who have adopted a child in the ACT.

Members of the public are most welcome to attend.

Public hearing schedule

Venue: House of Representatives Committee Room 1R3, Parliament House, Canberra.

Wednesday 17 August 2005

10.00 am – 10:45 am	Australian Capital Territory Government
10:45 am – 11:30 am	Private citizens

For media interview: contact Damien Jones on **0409 147 247** at the electorate office of the Chairman, 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 the internet at www.aph.gov.au/house/committee/fhs/adoption