



Bronwyn Bishop MP

Chairman

House of Representatives Standing Committee on
Family & Human Services

MEDIA RELEASE

2 November 2005

Attorney-General's Department to Give Evidence to International Adoptions Inquiry

The Chairman of the House of Representatives Family and Human Services Committee, Bronwyn Bishop, today announced public hearings into international adoptions in Canberra this Thursday (3 November).

Over 260 submissions have been received to the inquiry from individuals, all the major intercountry adoption groups across Australia as well as from state and territory Governments.

"With public hearings already held in most states and territories, the committee has met representatives of all the participants in the intercountry adoption process – government, parents & families and those adopted" Mrs Bishop said.

The public hearing in Canberra will allow the committee to take evidence from the federal Attorney-General's department from 11.45 am until 12 45pm. The committee has previously heard from the state and territory governments of Tasmania, Victoria, New South Wales, South Australia, Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory and the hearing in Canberra will supplement their evidence. Members of the public are welcome to observe proceedings, according to the Chairman.

The hearing will also allow the committee to consolidate arrangements with the Commonwealth Central Authority (Attorney-General's department) with evidence given earlier by state and territory governments, parents and support groups.

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: Parliament House, Canberra – Committee Room 1R3

Thursday 3 November

11.45am – 12.45pm

Attorney-General's Department

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](mailto: fhs.reps@aph.gov.au) or visit:

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