

**SUBMISSION NO. 152**

AUTHORISED: 1.05.05 *Andrius*

4<sup>th</sup> May 2005

The Secretary  
Standing Committee on Family and Human Services  
Inquiry into Adoption of Children from Overseas

Dear Sir/Madam

We are a couple who have been approved as adoptive parents, and have been waiting for a child from Taiwan.

We believe that the Australian Government can better assist Australian families who are adopting children from Taiwan. More importantly, we believe that the Federal Government should take the opportunity to help these children adapt more easily to their new life style and make a deeper relationship earlier with their new families in Australia.

At the moment, the average period of waiting from allocation until travelling to Australia is about 6 months. It is longer than other countries such as Holland.

If the Federal Government allows children adopted from Taiwan to travel home to Australia after the Initial Decree has been granted, there will be many benefits for these children.

I would like to ask the Committee to investigate the processes pertaining to visa requirements for Taiwanese children who are adopted into Australian families and to make a recommendation that these children travel after the initial decree has been granted.

Yours faithfully,  
Gavin & Tomoko Kelly

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