

Australian Families for Children Inc.

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6 April 2005

**Committee Secretary
Standing Committee on Family and Human Services
House of Representatives
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600
AUSTRALIA**

Good morning,

RE: INQUIRY INTO ADOPTION OF CHILDREN FROM OVERSEAS - (addition to original submission)

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Family and Human Services has reviewed the 2003-2004 Annual Report of the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare and on 16 February 2005 resolved to conduct an inquiry.

Terms of reference

The Committee shall inquire into and report on how the Australian Government can better assist Australians who are adopting or have adopted children from overseas countries (intercountry placement adoptions) with particular reference to:

- 1. Any inconsistencies between state and territory approval processes for overseas adoptions; and*
- 2. Any inconsistencies between the benefits and entitlements provided to families with their own birth children and those provided to families who have adopted children from overseas.*

A major issue in NSW relates to the right of adoptive families to name their child.

Item	Biological families	Local adoptive families	Intercountry adoptive families
Naming a child	Worldwide - parents are free to choose their child's name	In NSW – parents are free to choose name if the child is under 12 months at the time of placement.	In NSW intercountry adoptive families must maintain the child's given name as recorded in the orphanage or welfare system. This in not a requirement in most other states / nor in any other country.

Should you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards

Ricky Brisson (Mrs)
Executive Director
Australian Families for Children

Ricky Brisson

Executive Director/Adoption Coordinator and Founder - Australian Families for Children Inc. (AFC)
Founding member - Australians Caring for Children Inc. (ACC)
National Coordinator - Australian Intercountry Adoption Network (AICAN)
Convenor - NSW Intercountry Adoption Alliance

AFC - <http://www.australiansadopt.org>

ACC - <http://www.accau.org>

AICAN - <http://www.aican.org>

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<http://www.egroups.com/group/AFCadopt>

<http://www.egroups.com/group/Australian-adoption-campaign>

<http://www.egroups.com/group/Australia-adopt-korea>

<http://www.egroups.com/group/OzIca>