

From: Neva Hoppenbrouwers [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, 14 April 2005 12:43 AM
To: Committee, FHS (REPS)
Subject: Gay and Lesbian Overseas Adoption

I am writing as a lesbian Doctor who is concerned about a proposed ban on the adoption of overseas children by gay and lesbian people in Australia. Research has demonstrated time and again that children raised by gay and lesbian parents suffer no adverse effects from the fact that their parents are gay or lesbian, are no more likely than the general population to be gay or lesbian themselves, and show more tolerance and respect for difference than children with heterosexual parents. Thus if children of gay and lesbian parents suffer no ill effects from having gay and lesbian parents, what possible justification can there be for banning access to adoption of overseas children by gay and lesbian people where heterosexual people retain this right? It is only a Government that promotes blatant homophobia that aims to restrict access to overseas adoption solely on the basis of a parent's sexuality. If we seek to create a divisive, intolerant and homophobic society, a ban on gay and lesbian people having access to overseas adoption is correct. However, if we desire an inclusive, diverse and accepting Australian community, there is no *possible* justification for the banning of access to overseas adoption for gay and lesbian people.

Thankyou.

Dr Susan Fox

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