

**Senate Community Affairs Committee**  
**ANSWERS TO ESTIMATES QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**  
**SOCIAL SERVICES PORTFOLIO**  
**2015-16 Additional Estimates Hearings**

**Outcome Number: 2.1 Families and Communities**

**Question No: SQ16-000159**

**Topic: Adoption**

**Hansard page: Written**

**Senator Carol Brown asked:**

Is the Commonwealth engaging with the states and territories on the issue of domestic adoption and is DSS the lead Commonwealth agency on this work? Can you provide an update on work and the Commonwealth's involvement?

Can you provide an overview of this work (i.e. is it harmonisation work, research/scoping studying etc)? Is there a commitment or undertaking to reach a specific outcome?

Is this work being progressed through the Children and Families Secretaries Group, a working group of CaFS or another group? If a working group or another group, what is the membership of this group?

**Answer:**

Each state and territory has its own legislative and policy framework underpinning decisions on child protection, children in out-of-home care, permanent placement and adoption.

There is no formal work regarding domestic adoption being undertaken by the Commonwealth at this stage. However, the Commonwealth is considering exploring with state and territory counterparts how improved permanency planning for children in out-of-home care could be achieved. It is envisaged this issue will be discussed at a future meeting of the Children's and Families Secretaries Group (CaFS).