



31 July 2015

## **Intercountry Adoption Central Authorities Meeting** ***Communiqué***

The Commonwealth, state and territory central authorities for intercountry adoption, together with representatives from the Department of Social Services (DSS), the Department of Immigration and Border Protection (DIBP), the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), met on 31 July 2015.

Central authorities agreed to update key documents to better reflect the roles of the Australian and state and territory central authorities and the Australian Central Authority's work on the viability of new programmes and enhancement of existing programmes.

### **Intercountry Adoption Australia service**

On 17 May 2015, DSS launched the Intercountry Adoption Australia service. DSS provided an update on the operation of the new service, including the website and dedicated 1800 information line to help people navigate all stages of the intercountry adoption process.

People can visit the [Intercountry Adoption Australia](#) website or call 1800 197 760 Monday to Friday for information on intercountry adoption in Australia.

### **Update on existing country programmes**

Central authorities discussed an upcoming delegation visit to the Philippines—to attend the 13<sup>th</sup> Philippine Global Consultation on Child Welfare Services—and Thailand in September 2015. The Australian Central Authority also provided a report on the delegation visit to Taiwan and South Korea in June 2015.

### **Quota allocation systems**

Central authorities discussed the Philippines, Thailand, South Korea and Taiwan quotas. Central authorities provided an update on progress to date in preparing files. Central authorities agreed to continue to work collaboratively to ensure quota allocations are fully utilised to assist country partners find families for children in need of intercountry adoption.

### **Relative adoptions**

Central authorities discussed the need for greater clarity around the involvement of state and territory central authorities in relative adoptions. The Intercountry relative adoption policy paper will be reviewed.

### **Update from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection**

DIBP noted it was continuing to work with DSS, DFAT and the Australian Central Authority on intercountry adoption and expatriate adoption issues.

DIBP have updated links to previously available information on the DIBP website:

- Information on the subclass 102 visa is [available](#) at
- Information on Australian citizenship for children adopted overseas is [available](#)

### **Statistics**

A representative from the AIHW provided an update on national data collection work on adoption issues.