



17 March 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) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), met on 17 March 2015.

Intercountry adoption reforms

DSS provided an update on the development and roll out of the intercountry adoption support service. The new service will include a dedicated website and information line.

Further information is available from the Intercountry adoption reforms page of the [Attorney-General's Department's](#).

Investigations into possible new programmes

Central authorities discussed the status of investigations into the viability of Australia opening new intercountry adoption programmes with countries identified in the Prime Minister's *Interdepartmental Committee on Intercountry Adoption report*.

Country programme issues

Central authorities discussed a number of operational country programmes issues, including eligibility criteria and pre-adoption foster care arrangements.

Delegation visits

Central authorities reflected on the visit from the Philippines Intercountry Adoption Board to Australia in February 2015.

Central authorities also discussed upcoming delegation visits by Australian Government officials, including:

- Bolivia, Chile and Colombia in April 2015
- the Netherlands in June 2015 to attend the fourth meeting of the Special Commission on the Practical Operation of the 1993 Hague Intercountry Adoption Convention (further information on the Special Commission is available on the Hague Conference on Private International Law website), and
- Taiwan and South Korea in June 2015.

Update from the Department of Immigration and Border Protection

DIBP and central authorities discussed intercountry adoption issues, data collection and expatriate adoption issues.

Statistics

AIHW provided an update on preparations for the next *Adoptions Australia* report. Previous reports and dynamic data display of intercountry adoption data is available from the [AIHW website](#).