Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Intercountry Adoption Central Authorities Meeting Communiqué

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The Department of Social Services as the Australian Central Authority (ACA) for intercountry adoption and State and Territory Central Authorities (STCA) met virtually on 12 November 2025. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss intercountry adoption matters.

Updates from Australian governments

The ACA provided updates on key intercountry adoption policy and program management matters.

STCAs shared their insights on key developments in adoption practices and processes in each jurisdiction.

National Action Plan (NAP)

The ACA provided an update on the review of the draft National Action Plan (NAP), a document outlining deliverables under the _Commonwealth-State Agreement for the Continued Operation of Australia's Intercountry Adoption Program_ (CSA), developed in consultation with STCAs in the first quarter of 2025.

The NAP is reviewed and updated every 2 years to ensure it remains focussed on the changing global intercountry adoption landscape. The new NAP will cover the 2025-2026 period.

Review of the Commonwealth State Agreement (CSA)

The ACA provided an update on the review of the CSA, a process initiated by Children and Families Secretaries (CAFS) Group endorsement in March 2025. The CSA is reviewed every five years after coming into force.

The revised CSA and the associated NAP are currently with the CAFS Group for out-of-session final endorsement, due by end-November 2025. Once the review is complete and state and territory ministers have executed the document, the new CSA will come into effect.

The new CSA and NAP are expected to commence in first quarter 2026.

National Curriculum for Prospective Adoptive Parents (PAPs) considering Intercountry Adoption (National Curriculum)

The ACA provided an update on the review process for updating the 2010 National Curriculum, including completion of a 'gap analysis' of jurisdictional application of the 2010 curriculum, informed by input from the STCAs.

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