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Reducing the risks of expatriate adoption – Resource Toolkit

Welcome to the Intercountry Adoption toolkit.

Some Australians choose to adopt children from other countries.

There are 2 types of overseas adoptions - intercountry adoption and expatriate adoption.



- Intercountry adoption is when an Australian (living in Australia) adopts a child from overseas through Australian adoption authorities.
- Expatriate adoption occurs when an Australian adopts a child while living overseas. This adoption pathway comes with many risks.

Australians wanting to adopt a child from overseas must do so through Australia's regulated Intercountry Adoption (ICA) program.

Through the ICA program, Australia has regulated intercountry adoption partnerships with countries that follow the principles of the Hague Adoption Convention, which is an international treaty that aims to:

- protect children and their families from trafficking and illegal and ill-prepared overseas adoptions
- ensure intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child.

Expatriate adoptions are discouraged as there are higher risks of illicit or illegal adoption practices. Expatriate adoptions are not subject to the same safeguards as adoptions under the Hague Adoption Convention.

This toolkit has a variety of digital resources that you can share among your networks to communicate about Australia's Intercountry Adoption program and the risks of expatriate adoption.

Help us spread the message



Most adoptive parents are well intentioned. But they may not be aware of the difficulties and risks involved with overseas adoption practices, including that these adoptions may not be recognised in Australia.

It's important that prospective adoptive parents are aware of the challenges and risks they may encounter.

We ask that you share the assets in this kit with your networks, to increase awareness about intercountry adoption and the risks of expatriate adoption. For ease of sharing, you can also view the resources on the Department of Social Services' Expatriate adoption webpage.

What's included in this kit

In this kit you will find a range of materials you can distribute to your internal and external audiences.

These include a variety of highly visual digital assets. The assets are all designed to be easily shared on your website, social media platforms, newsletters and noticeboards. You can also integrate the assets into ongoing activities and discussions within your audience and community.

The kit contains:

- Key messages
- Social media content and tiles
- Newsletter/website content
- Links to informative videos.

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Key messages

The following sample of key messages are to help you communicate to prospective adoptive parents about intercountry adoption and the risks with expatriate adoption.



- Where possible, a child should be raised in their country of birth, and intercountry adoption should only happen if local solutions are not available. Australia's intercountry adoption policies reflect this principle.
- Australians can adopt children from other countries under certain circumstances. There are 2 types of overseas adoptions - intercountry adoption and expatriate adoption.
- Intercountry adoption is when an Australian (living in Australia) adopts a child from overseas through Australian authorities.
- Expatriate adoption occurs when an Australian adopts a child while living overseas. This adoption pathway comes with many risks.
- There are higher risks when adopting as an expatriate. Australian adoption authorities are unable to carry out the usual assessments or approvals, required by Australian law.
- If you proceed with an expatriate adoption, the adoption circumstances may not meet the immigration requirements for the child to enter Australia.
- In addition to this, the adoption arrangement may not be legally recognised under your state or territory legislation.
- It is important you are aware of the serious legal and ethical risks involved for both yourself, and the child you are looking to adopt. For more information read the Expatriate adoption factsheet | Department of Social Services and Going overseas to adopt a child | Smartraveller
- Australians wanting to adopt a child from overseas must do so via Australia's regulated Intercountry Adoption Program.
- This Program follows the Hague Adoption Convention and aims to protect children and their families from trafficking, and illegal and ill-prepared overseas adoptions.
- Australia has regulated intercountry adoption partnerships with countries that follow the principles of the Hague Adoption Convention. Visit Partner countries for more information.
- Intercountry Adoption Australia can provide information and support to help you through your adoption journey.
- Adopting a child from overseas has many challenges. It's important you consider if intercountry adoption is right for you and your family.
- For more information, visit the Intercountry Adoption Australia website dss.gov.au/intercountry-adoption

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Newsletter/Website

The below content is for you to share in your newsletter or on your website. Feel free to alter it to suit your preferred style.



Are you an Australian wanting to adopt a child from overseas?

Where possible a child should be raised in their country of birth, however intercountry adoption is an option if local solutions are not available.

Some Australians choose to adopt children from other countries.

There are 2 types of overseas adoptions, intercountry and expatriate adoption:

- Intercountry adoption is when an Australian (living in Australia) adopts a child from overseas through Australian adoption authorities.
- Expatriate adoption occurs when an Australian adopts a child while living overseas. This adoption pathway comes with many risks.

In an expatriate adoption, Australian adoption authorities are unable to carry out the usual assessments or approvals, required by Australian law. Without these checks, the adoption may not meet the legal requirements for recognition when returning to Australia.

Most adoptive parents are well intentioned. But they may not be aware of the serious legal and ethical risks involved with this type of adoption. For more information, visit the adoption page on the Smartraveller website.

To be sure your adoption is conducted safely and in the best interest of the child, progress the adoption while you live in Australia, through the Intercountry Adoption Program.

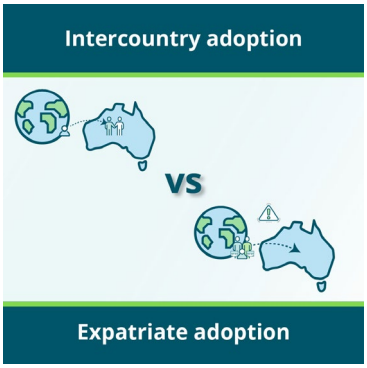
This Program follows the Hague Adoption Convention. It aims to protect children and their families from trafficking, and illegal and ill-prepared overseas adoptions.

Watch this video to learn more or visit dss.gov.au/intercountry-adoption.

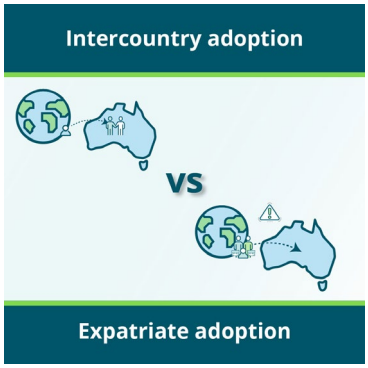
Social Media Content and Tiles

A selection of social media tiles and accompanying content have been developed for you to share on your channels, which you can tweak to suit your organisation's style.



Topic	Example copy	Tile
The difference between the 2 types of adoption	Looking to adopt a child from overseas? There are 2 types of overseas adoptions, intercountry adoption and expatriate adoption: • Intercountry adoption is when an Australian (living in Australia) adopts a child from overseas through Australian adoption authorities. • Expatriate adoption occurs when an Australian adopts a child while living overseas. Expatriate adoption comes with many risks. Read more at www.smartraveller.gov.au/before-you-go/activities/adoption To learn about the Australian Government's Intercountry Adoption Program, visit dss.gov.au/intercountry-adoption.	 Video files available here.
Risks of Expatriate Adoption (short)	Are you an Australian wanting to adopt a child from overseas? If you're an Australian living in Australia, you must do so via Australia's intercountry adoption program. Visit dss.gov.au/intercountry-adoption If you're an Australian living overseas, this is known as an expatriate adoption and it can involve serious risks. Visit www.smartraveller.gov.au/before-you-go/activities/adoption	 Video files available here

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Topic	Example copy	Tile
Risks of Expatriate Adoption (long)	If you're an Australian living overseas and considering adopting a child, it's important you understand the risks. In an expatriate adoption, Australian authorities are unable to carry out the usual assessments or approvals, that are required by Australian law. Without these checks, the adoption may not meet the legal requirements for recognition when returning to Australia. For more information read the Expatriate adoption factsheet | Department of Social Services and visit Going overseas to adopt a child | Smartraveller	 Video files available here
Expatriate adoption is not recognised	Some Australians who adopt a child while living overseas may find themselves in a difficult position when returning to Australia. Watch to learn the risks of expatriate adoption. Australians wanting to adopt a child from overseas must do so via Australia's intercountry adoption program. For more information, visit www.dss.gov.au/intercountry-adoption.	 Video files available here

Want to know more? Contact us:

Email: info@intercountryadoption.gov.au