



18-19 March 2019

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

The Australian, State and Territory Central Authorities for intercountry adoption, together with the Department of Social Services (DSS) met on 18 and 19 March 2019. Representatives from the Department of Home Affairs (Home Affairs), the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) and the New Zealand Central Authority also attended parts of the meeting.

Updates from Australian governments

DSS and AGD provided updates on a number of key program and policy developments concerning matters of national intercountry adoption policy and country program management.

State and Territory Central Authorities provided updates on key developments in each jurisdiction.

Attendees discussed immigration matters, with Home Affairs providing advice on guardianship and expatriate adoption issues.

Country program updates

Attendees discussed a number of country program matters, including the hold on the Philippines program. Attendees discussed key considerations for the next steps and initial phase of the reactivation of the India program, including learnings from New Zealand's work with India.

Roles and responsibilities

Attendees discussed the transfer of the Central Authority from AGD to DSS, making DSS the single point of contact in the Australian Government for intercountry adoption matters.

Intercountry Adoption Conference in Canada

New South Wales (NSW) discussed their upcoming attendance at a conference in Canada. NSW offered to provide insights from the conference to meeting attendees.

Update from AIHW

AIHW sought advice to inform data collection on intercountry adoptions and advised the meeting about upcoming data collection plans.