



Australian Government
Department of Social Services

Intercountry Adoption Central Authorities Meeting Communiqué

The Department of Social Services as the Australian Central Authority (ACA) for intercountry adoption, State and Territory Central Authorities (STCAs) and the New Zealand Central Authority, met virtually on 4 November 2021, to discuss intercountry adoption matters and actions arising from the 25 March 2021 STCA meeting.

Representatives from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT), the Department of Home Affairs (HA) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) also attended.

Attendees reviewed priority areas within the National Action Plan and National Work Schedule of the Commonwealth-State Agreement for the Continued Operation of Australia's Intercountry Adoption Program.

Updates from Australian governments

The ACA provided updates on key intercountry program and policy developments.

It was noted that the Children and Families Secretaries Group endorsed the updated Subsequent Sibling, Relative Child and Known-Non Relative Child National Practice Agreements and also agreed to a national policy to end the facilitation of ad hoc adoptions to Australia.

STCAs and the New Zealand Central Authority provided updates on key developments in each jurisdiction.

The AIHW advised the Adoptions Australia Report will be released on 3 December 2021.

Expatriate Adoption

The ACA, on behalf of the Expatriate Adoption Working Group presented a proposed draft framework and the two year strategic plan to STCAs.

Country Program Reviews (CPRs)

All STCAs endorsed the Hong Kong and South Korea, South Africa, and Latvia CPR findings.

National Action Plan (NAP)

STCAs agreed to the completion of the current NAP and agreed that the remaining work be carried forward for consideration in the new NAP.

The ACA and STCAs discussed proposed priority outcome areas for a new NAP to be agreed at the next STCA meeting in the first quarter of 2022.