

Educational Video Resource Information Session

Prepared for: Adoptee Participants



Prepared by: Lynelle Long, Founding Director, InterCountry Adoptee Voices (ICAV)
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SUMMARY INFORMATION SESSION GROUP VIDEO CONFERENCE

Thurs 18 March @ 20:00 NSW / 19:30 SA / 19:00 QLD / 17:00 WA

Attendees 15 adoptees

Kris, Michelle, Sally, Benjamin, Chloe, Jono, James, Beti, Ja-Lee, Theodora, Damian, Joshua, Shan, Gemma, Jonas

Hosts

Lynelle Long: InterCountry Adoptee Voices (ICAV)

Gianna Mazzone: Relationship Matters (RM)

Welcome

Introduce from Lynelle & Gianna

Thank you for expressing an interest in ICAV's educational video project. Your perspective and input is valued.

SUMMARY OF THE PROJECT

We are creating a 10+ minute video together with an e-flyer, targeted towards helping 3 major professionals (teachers, doctors, counsellors) understand what we want them to know, in order to better support adoptees they deal with in the future.

WHY WE ARE DOING IT

These 3 professionals can often be our first points of contact for other unrelated reasons and when we seek support ... so important if we are vulnerable that the support be informed and positive.

Via the broad consultation we did with Fed Govt on the ICAFSS Service this time last year, part of what I've heard from adoptees in ICAV over the many years, and also reflected in Patricia Fronck's research on post adoption support services from adoptee perspectives - we often report how these 3 professionals lack an understanding of our complexities ... but imagine if they became a great referral step to lead towards better supports. ie earlier intervention / prevention.

Our goal is to better educate them from our lived experience so the next adoptee who they deal with, is given much better support and understanding even if it's only a referral to services we identify as being helpful.

What I need from you ASAP:

★ Please send me **two date/time slots within the next three weeks (end date 9 April)**

where I can audition you using our Goto Video app to hear your thoughts that you'd like to contribute to

<https://intercountryadopteevoices.com/australian-educational-video-project/>

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this resource.

It will be a way for us to get to know each other (as I will be interviewing you if you are chosen for Film Stage) and for you to share your thoughts with me. I do ask if it's ok for me to record the chat not for publishing but so I can keep track of your contribution and have an idea on how you come across on screen. I may be showing it only to the project technical team so we can discuss ways to setup film and record you should you be chosen for the filming stage. If you don't wish to be recorded at this stage please advise and I will be happy to just type and write what you say.

★ At this audition chat, I'd like you to specifically consider:

sharing 2-3 min about yourself and your adoption experience, include aspects you think are unique to your situation

what key messages you would want teachers, doctors, and counsellors to know about the individual and/or collective journey as an intercountry adoptee

your experiences in the past with these professionals and how they made you feel

what do you know now in hindsight that would have helped if a teacher, doctor, or counsellor had understood better the traumas and underlying complexities of intercountry adoption?

what resources/supports worked for you that you would recommend so they can recommend them to clients who are intercountry adoptees

throughout answering all these high level questions, feel free to use examples because that's where we want professionals to understand the lived experience

Remember: Our goal is to better educate them from our lived experience so the next adoptee who they deal with, is given much better support and understanding even if it's only a referral to services we identify as being helpful.

STAGES OF PROJECT:

Tonight is the **interest & information stage** : sharing what the project is about and allowing you Q&A.

After this, you will need to decide if you want to continue to be involved. If so, adoptees who wish to participate will be required to sign a **project participation consent form**.

At the later stage, adoptees selected for filming will need to sign a **Media Release** form.

I need to be clear up front that **not all who volunteer to participate and audition will be screened in the final video**, but your thoughts and sentiments will be captured where possible. I am required to provide a written summary document to accompany the video and your input may be captured here as well.

I've talked about the **Audition stage** which is online video interview.

There will also be the **Filming stage** should you be selected. I will be choosing adoptees based on how they impart the message and trying to get broad coverage of our countries of origin, ages and stages of life, range of experiences, and genders.

Then I will have the **Editing stage** which will take 2 months.

Then we will have **Launching stage** where it will be published on both RM and ICAV's websites plus I will be distributing this to many educational, medical, psychology spaces. If any of you have useful contacts in these spaces, I'd also appreciate the contacts.

Currently there are 25 adoptees interested in this first stage. Only 10 adoptees will be selected for filming based on the project's need to include a good broad coverage of birth country representation, ages, experiences/views shared.

Other adoptee involvement will include adoptee artists, musicians, graphic designers, and technical experts in video production where possible. I will also create written material and your input may be directly used there too.

Duration: This project will be ongoing for 6 months and we aim to publish the final video and document as an online resource at ICAV and RM websites by end of August, if all goes smoothly.

SUPPORT

Every adoptee who participates in this project will be able to access the free counselling service provided by adoption trained psychologists at [RelationsMatters](#). Gianna directs and manages this service which is why it was important you meet her here tonight. She or her staff will also be contacting you later on to check in and ensure your mental health and well being is in a good space. The last thing I want to do is cause any additional trauma because often talking about and referring to our past can trigger those feelings. If at any point you need to stop or discontinue because of this - I will understand.

REIMBURSEMENT

I have a limited budget and will be making sure that the funds are distributed fairly, as a gift, based on the number of stages you participate in, as a gesture of appreciation for your contribution. The budget cannot afford to pay you a professional remuneration rate, but we want to recognise the expertise of the adoptee lived experience. To administer this I need each of you to complete a Statement by Supplier form for tax purposes.

At this point, I can't be more specific on how much you will receive until I know the final number of adoptees being involved and what stages of participation.

I look forward to working together.

QUESTION TIME

Q: What types of professionals and their orgs are we including? eg are we referring only to primary school? or just GPs?

A: It is up to you to define which professional you are referring to in your audition. Ideally I'd hope to cover a

wide scope - for example, we definitely want to include primary, secondary and tertiary education, GPs & specialists, psychiatrists and counsellors and psychologists.

Gianna spoke about how as a professional counsellor after hearing many of our experiences, she knows how that fairy tale about adoption still exists and pervades the public awareness. We need to challenge that and say what we always wanted these professionals to know. Challenge the myths about being rescued, being given a better life; ensuring the painful parts get recognised and how lifelong they are.

Input welcomed from you:

Any thoughts on the Video name ? or a better name for the video project?

Decision by group:

It was agreed to meet monthly, online, facilitated by Gianna, hosted with technology by Lynelle

Group online checkin meeting every month - helps you process some of what you've covered in the project and connect with others going thru' the same project.

Lynelle & Gianna to send you all the dates/times for those monthly online checkins.

Group Chat

Everyone shared a little about themselves that they were comfortable with, we talked a little about some of the lived experience thoughts that came up from the conversation.

End of Meeting