

From: "MOGER, Stephen" <Stephen.MOGER@dss.gov.au>

Subject: reference please?

Date: 18 April 2017 at 14:31:41 AEST

To: Lynelle Long <lynellelong@me.com>

Dear Lynelle

I am pleased to be able to offer a supporting reference and outline of our work together for approximately the last 18 months in respect to intercountry adoption. Since September 2015 I have worked closely with you in my role as Director of Intercountry Adoption, and you leading the work of Intercountry Adoptee Voices.

Firstly, I would like to offer my thanks and appreciation for the positive contribution you've made to advocate on behalf of intercountry adoptees. Your ongoing collaboration has been instrumental in achieving a number of positive outcomes including:

- Enhancing the knowledge of Department of Social Services staff about the impact of adoption on adoptees to strengthen our policy development and service delivery, which has included providing dedicated training sessions for our staff;
- The establishment of a new Commonwealth funded tracing and reunification service for intercountry adoptees;
- Securing a commitment to a sequel to the *The Colour of Difference- Journeys in transracial adoption*, that will become a key resource for informing intercountry adoption policy in future;
- Ensuring the Commonwealth funded family and relationship service for intercountry adoption caters for the needs of intercountry adoptees;
- Establishing our innovation workshop in Sydney in 2016 to progress thinking on international tracing and reunification technologies.

As you know, intercountry adoption is a highly complex and technical field that presents a range of complex social and emotional, legal, ethical and service delivery challenges. I have personally valued your positive contribution and the depth of knowledge you have brought to our intercountry adoption work as a leading advocate. Through the complexity of the subject matter you have demonstrated a thorough technical knowledge and a willingness to engage constructively with the Commonwealth on challenging and highly technical topics.

I have also observed your personal leadership qualities during our time working together. You have actively led Intercountry Adoptee Voices to harness the views of the membership (an often highly vulnerable group) and tenacity to engage with Government, including politicians and senior public servants, to influence policy thinking.

Again I am pleased to be able to write this letter of support and wish you all the best for your future endeavours and hope to work with you again in future. Should anyone wish to discuss this with me please feel free to contact me on (02) 6146 2649 or 0468 415 450.

Kind Regards
Stephen Moger

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DSS acknowledges the traditional owners of country throughout Australia, and their continuing connection to land, sea and community. We pay our respects to them and their cultures, and to elders both past and present.