



Office of the Hon Dan Tehan MP
Minister for Social Services

Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Telephone: 02 6277 7560

MC18-001952

11 APR 2018

Ms Lynelle Long
Founder
InterCountry Adoptee Voices
lynellelong@me.com

Dear Ms Long and co-signees

Thank you for your letter of 15 March 2018, to the Minister for Social Services, the Hon Dan Tehan MP, on behalf of the Advisory Group to International Social Service (ISS), regarding funding for Australia's Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service (ICATRS). The Minister has asked me to reply to you on his behalf.

The Department of Social Services (DSS) provided ISS Australia with one-off funding to establish the ICATRS in 2016-17. In recognition of greater than expected demand for the service, DSS provided ISS Australia with a one-year extension for the ICATRS in 2017-18.

The Department viewed this as one-off funding and an opportunity to build the foundation of tracing and reunification services in Australia. The Department has advised that there is no option for further Australian Government funding for the ICATRS.

I note that the two years of funding that ISS Australia did receive allowed it to establish a service that was welcomed by intercountry adoptees and their families. I have encouraged ISS Australia to build on this foundation by considering alternative funding models.

Thank you again for bringing your concerns to the Minister's attention.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'P. Connoles'.

PHIL CONNOLES
Chief of Staff