

NATIONAL PEAK OVERSEAS ADOPTION SUPPORT GROUP

INAUGURAL MEETING

21–22 May 2008

Rydges Capital Hill, Canberra

Day I

Introduction and Overview

8.45am–9.00am:

Arrival

9.00am–10.30am:

Welcome and Introductions

10.30am–11.00am:

Welcome Address

Attorney-General, the Hon Robert McClelland MP

11.00am–11.30am:

Morning Tea (with the Attorney-General)

11.30am–1.00pm:

National Peak Overseas Adoption Support Group

Role of Peak Support Group

- Terms of Reference
- Role and selection of Members
- Role and selection of Chair for Day II
- Funding
- Meeting Procedure

Role of the Attorney-General's Department

- Secretariat Support
- Refer Matters to and Receive Advice from Group

1.00pm–2.00pm:

Lunch

2.00pm–3.30pm:

Members Items

(1) Australian Government's Current Work

- Status of Existing Intercountry Adoption Programs
- Investigations into Possible New Programs
- Initiatives to Support Partner Countries
- *Commonwealth–State Agreement* and Working Groups: Harmonisation Issues and Alternative Models (including accreditation)
- Implementation of the *Overseas Adoption in Australia* Report Recommendations
- Central Authorities' Meeting

3.30pm–4.00pm:

Afternoon Tea

4.00pm–5.00pm:

(2) Intercountry Adoption Programs

- Management and Expansion of Existing Programs (continued discussion)
- Potential New Programs (continued discussion)

6.30pm:

Dinner

*Fig Tree Café
Rydges Capital Hill*

Day II

Members' Items Cont.

8.45am–9.00am:

Arrival

9.00am–10.00am:

(3) Government Entitlements

- Parental/Adoption Leave
- Maternity Allowance
- Medicare

(4) Tax Deductible Adoption Fees

10.00am–10.30am:

Morning Tea

10.30am–12.00pm:

(5) Special Needs and Older Children

(6) Post Adoption Support Services

- Current Status and Strategies for Future
- Post Placement Adoptee Support and Education
- Research and Distribution of Information/Resources
- Homeland Visits and Services
- Access to Birth/Adoption Information

(7) Child Trafficking Issues

- Including Support for Children and Families

12.00pm–1.00pm:

Lunch

1.00pm–2.30pm:

(8) Harmonisation

- State and Territory Processes and Fee Structures
- Administrative Procedures for Obtaining Citizenship for Children Adopted Overseas (including immigration requirements and birth certificates)
- Approach to Adoption Process and Assessments

(9) Communication and Education

- Education (including preparation for prospective adoptive parents, information to public and government agencies)
- Inclusion of Intercountry Adoption in Australian Statistics (ABS)
- Peak Support Group Representation at the Australian Adoption Conference, 3–5 September 2008
- Communication between the Attorney-General's Department and Adoption Support Organisations
- Communication between State and Territory Central Authorities and (prospective) adoptive parents

2.30pm–3.00pm:

Afternoon Tea

3.00pm–3.50pm:

(9) Communication and Education Cont.

3.50pm– 4.00pm:

(10) Dates for Future Meetings and Close