



# PARLIAMENT of AUSTRALIA HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES

## STANDING COMMITTEE ON SOCIAL POLICY AND LEGAL AFFAIRS

PO Box 6021, Parliament House, Canberra ACT 2600 | Phone: (02) 6277 2358 | Fax: (02) 6277 8594 | Email: [spla.reps@aph.gov.au](mailto:spla.reps@aph.gov.au) | [www.aph.gov.au/spla](http://www.aph.gov.au/spla)

6 April 2018

Ms Amanda Porter  
Connecting Foster Carers - SA  
PO Box 2052  
Prospect SA 5082

By email to: [amanda@cfc-sa.org.au](mailto:amanda@cfc-sa.org.au)

Dear Ms Porter

### NEW INQUIRY: LOCAL ADOPTION INVITATION TO MAKE A SUBMISSION

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs has commenced a new inquiry into a nationally consistent framework for local adoption in Australia, with a view to providing stability and permanency of care for children in out-of-home care, with local adoption as a viable option.

In 2015-16 over 46,000 children were in out of home care. During the same period 278 local adoptions were finalised. Guided by the principle of what is in the best interests of the child, the Committee is keen to understand whether there are unnecessary barriers to local adoption in Australia and, if so, the reasons for these barriers.

The Committee welcomes your views on any or all of the attached terms of reference, depending on your areas of interest and expertise. Further information about the inquiry is available at: <https://www.aph.gov.au/spla>.

Submissions should be sent to the Committee by **Tuesday, 15 May 2018**. It is preferred that submissions are uploaded electronically, through: [www.aph.gov.au/Committee/Submissions](http://www.aph.gov.au/Committee/Submissions).

You are also welcome to extend this invitation to any other people or organisations that may have an interest in this issue and may wish to prepare a submission for the Committee's consideration.

Once a document is received, the Committee decides whether to accept the document as a submission and publish it on its website. Please note that making a submission constitutes giving evidence and attracts parliamentary privilege. Once you have provided a submission to the Committee you cannot withdraw it or alter it without the Committee's permission. Please note that your document should not be disclosed to any other person until its publication has been authorised by the Committee.

While the Committee generally prefers that submissions be made public, you may request that part or all of your submission be kept confidential. Any request for confidentiality

should include reasons for the request, and be provided in writing for the Committee to consider.

Please refer to the following brochure for helpful information on preparing a submission, including information about parliamentary privilege and requests for confidentiality:

[www.aph.gov.au/MakeSubmission](http://www.aph.gov.au/MakeSubmission).

If you require further information please contact Emma Matthews on (02) 6277 2358.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peggy Danaee', followed by a horizontal line and a period.

Ms Peggy Danaee  
Committee Secretary



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**Inquiry into local adoption**

**TERMS OF REFERENCE**

The House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs will inquire into and report on approaches to a nationally consistent framework for local adoption in Australia, with specific reference to:

1. stability and permanency for children in out-of-home care with local adoption as a viable option; and
2. appropriate guiding principles for a national framework or code for local adoptions within Australia.

In undertaking its inquiry, the Committee will have regard to relevant legislative frameworks within Australia.