Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service (ICATRS) Report

2017 – 2018 Financial Year

Introduction:

On 1/7/16 International Social Service (ISS) Australia received funding for one year from DSS to provide an Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service (ICATRS). This service primarily provides information, support, and counselling to intercountry adoptees and adoptive parents in relation to their decision to trace birth family overseas and the tracing process. ISS Australia also uses the resources of the ISS international network and other contacts overseas to facilitate the tracing of birth family overseas and any information relevant to the adoptees identity.

ICATRS became fully operational on 1/9/16 after the new staff were recruited and trained. After the development and progress of the service's inaugural years funding, ISS Australia was provided with additional funding for 2017/18 Financial Year through the DSS FaRS funding stream.

Staffing:

ISS Australia's ICATRS staff have remained constant since the start of the service with the exception of one change s47F who was our full-time ICA Tracing Social Worker and highly valued team s47F Her position was filled by 2 part-time social workers, s47F and s47F was fortunate to have a 2 week crossover with s47F allowing for a thorough induction and handover of s47F cases, including many introductory meetings with clients in order to limit the disruption of a change in social worker.

The stability of the ICATRS team has greatly assisted our clients as well as enhanced our ability to establish key working relationships with overseas colleagues and knowledge of specific countries post adoption procedures.

Presently the ICATRS team consists of:
- s47F – 0.6 FTE ICA Tracing Social Worker based in Melbourne; s47F
- s47F – 0.4 FTE ICA Tracing Social Worker based in Sydney; s47F
- s47F – 0.6 FTE ICA Tracing Social Worker based in Sydney; s47F
- s47F – 0.2 FTE ICA Tracing Caseworker based in Adelaide; s47F
- s47F – 0.2 FTE ICA Tracing Social Worker based in Adelaide; s47F
- s47F – 0.9 FTE Coordinator, ICA Service based in Sydney; s47F

- s47F   – Full-time Manager, ICA Service based in Sydney; s47F
- s47F

ICATRS Demand, Enquiries and Cases

The demand for ICATRS is clearly evident and has greatly exceeded the predicted 60 per annum case numbers. The new cases have been achieved with limited promotion of the service and this clearly indicates that one of the most prominent and conveyed needs for intercountry adoptees and their families is tracing and reunification services.

In ICATRS inaugural year (2016 / 2017) we opened 136 new cases, bearing in mind ICATRS only became fully operational on 1/9/16 when ICA Tracing Social Workers were employed. The demand of ICATRS has continued into our second year of funding, with another <u>103 new cases</u> opened and allocated to the ICA Tracing Social Workers. This brought a total of <u>239 new cases</u> received in a brief, less than 2 year period.

<u>New Cases from 1 July 2017 – 30 December 2017:</u>
- 102 new individual cases for the ICA Tracing Service

State / Territory breakdown for Jul 2017 – June 2018:
- NSW s47F
- VIC s47F
- QLD s47F
- Overseas s47F
- WA s47F
- SA s47F
- TAS s47F
- ACT s47F
- NT s47F

Country brea_____uly 2017 June 2018:
- Ethiopia s47F
- South Korea s47F
- Sri Lanka s47F
- Philippines s47F
- Vietnam s47F
- China s47F
- Thailand s47F
- Fiji s47F
- Hong Kong s47F
- Chile s47F
- Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Singapore, Argentina, Colombia, and Serbia s47F

Review of ICATRS:

Many great outcomes have been achieved for our clients despite the brief period of operation. A Social Work Student conducted an in-depth Review of the ICA Tracing Service in early 2018 and the key survey results indicated that the majority of respondents were very satisfied to extremely satisfied with our service delivery (80%) and their social worker (95%). (See Attachment 1 for an Executive Summary of the Review and Attachment 2 for the full Review of the ICA Tracing Service)

Client Feedback

ICATRS continues to receive positive reports from clients. Here are just 3 examples of the many we receive:

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'ISS Australia has the knowledge, experience and contacts that an individual is unable to access. Also, an adoptee or adoptive parents is emotionally involved and therefore may rush to process if searching on their own, where a social worker is detached and would consider all parties involved.'

'Connecting our son with his biological family is really important to us. ISS Australia has made the impossible seem possible.'

'We are very thankful to ISS Australia for their guidance and support during the process of finding our child's birth mother. The social worker's advice on how to approach delivering information to our child, and how to communicate with other parties involved in the search was extremely helpful. Our goal was to find our child's birth mother and ISS Australia achieved this goal, handling all relationships along the way with respect and care.'

Conclusion:

ISS Australia is incredibly disappointed at a decision by the Department of Social Services (DSS) not to renew annual funding for the tracing and reunification service provided to Australian intercountry adoptees.

ICATRS was established in response to a significant level of need for assistance and support in the Australian intercountry adoptee community. Many Australian intercountry adoptees experience identity, grief and loss, attachment and trust issues which can manifest into serious problems including anxiety, self-harm, mental health concerns and even suicide. Many have a great desire and need to access information and reconnect with their biological family, country of origin, culture and language, this can be very difficult for individual adoptees and their families who have little or no knowledge how to navigate systems overseas and whom require professional support and counselling in both Australia and overseas.

The service has been very successful in its brief period of operation, establishing strong partnerships with overseas tracing partners, achieving many positive outcomes (including locating 55 biological families' overseas as well as facilitating 23 family reunions) and building up to its current level of over 238 clients. It has been enthusiastically embraced by Australian intercountry adoptees, their families and workers in the adoption field.

ISS Australia was therefore very shocked to learn that funding for ICATRS would not be renewed when the current funding agreement expires on 30 June 2018. Despite an appeal to the Minister and many articulate letters from support from adoption stakeholder and clients, it was extremely unfortunate that this decision to not renew our funded could not be renewed.

Whilst ISS Australia is appealing to alternative funding sources and philanthropy, we have been unable to secure the funds required to continue the service. The reality now is that the service has effectively been closed, the experienced staff have been made redundant, and our partnerships with overseas tracing services will likely end. More importantly ISS Australia feels regretful for the over 238 clients left without care and support from the workers they have come to know and trust.

Overall this really does seem an unfortunate outcome for a service that was launched less than two years ago with such strong hopes and acclaim from service beneficiaries and others in the adoption field around the world.

Attachments:

- 2016-2018 ICA Tracing case statistics

Prepared by:

s47F *Manager, Intercountry Adoption Service*
30/7/18

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ICA TRS Case	s47F	Country involved	s47F	Birth family traced	Reunion	s47F
1		Philippines				
2		Thailand				
3		Vietnam		Y		
4		Taiwan				
5		Philippines				
6		Ethiopia				
7		China				

	s47F		s47F				s47F
8		Ethiopia					
9		South Korea					
10		Sri Lanka					
11		Ethiopia					
12		Ethiopia			Y	Y	
13		Ethiopia					
14		Ethiopia					

	s47F		s47F			s47F
15		Tasmania		Y	Y	
16		Vietnam				
17		South Korea				
18		Malaysia				
19		Ethiopia				
20		Guatemala				
21		Ethiopia				
22		Vietnam				
23		Ethiopia				

	s47F		s47F				s47F
24		China					
25		Ethiopia					
26		South Korea					
27		South Korea					
28		China					
29		Philippines					
30		South Korea					
31		Thailand					

		s47F		s47F			s47F
32		South Korea			Y N		
33		South Korea			Y		
34		China					
35		South Korea					
36		Sri Lanka					
37		South Korea					
38		India					
39		Serbia					
40		Philippines					
41		South Korea					
42		South Korea			Y		

	s47F		s47F			s47F
43		Philippines				
44		China				
45		China				
46		South Korea				
47		South Korea				
48		Taiwan				
49		South Korea				
50		Sri Lanka				
51		South Korea				
52		South Korea				

	s47F		s47F			s47F
53		China				
54		China				
55		Sri Lanka				
56		Sri Lanka				
57		Romania		Y	Y	
58		Sri Lanka				
59		India				
60		India				
61		Ethiopia				
62		Ethiopia				
63		Ethiopia				

	s47F		s47F			s47F
64		South Korea				
65		Sri Lanka				
66		Colombia				
67		Sri Lanka				
68		Philippines				
69		India				
70		Vietnam				
71		Vietnam				
72		South Korea				
73		Malaysia				
74		South Korea				
75		South Korea				

	s47F	s47F			s47F
76		South Korea			
77		Vietnam			
78		Philippines			
79		Vietnam			
80		Vietnam			
81		Colombia			
82		South Korea			
83		Philippines			
84		Romania			
85		Sri Lanka			
86		Sri Lanka			
87		India			

#						
88	s47F	Thailand	s47F			s47F
89		Sri Lanka				
90		Sri Lanka				
91		Vietnam				
92		Ethiopia		Y by client	Y by facebook	
93		India		Y by sibling		
94		Ethiopia		Y father, N sibs	Y father, N sibs	
95		Ethiopia		Y	Y by phone and facebook	s47F
96		Ethiopia				s47F
97		South Korea				
98		South Korea				
99		South Korea				

	s47F		s47F			s47F
100		South Korea				
101		South Korea				
102		South Korea				
103		South Korea				
104		South Korea				
105		South Korea				
106		South Korea				

Activity Work Plan Report

Instructions

To complete the Activity Work Plan Report you will need a copy of your approved Activity Work Plan.

Most of text boxes in this form will be populated by copying the text in your Activity Work. You will need to report against each line item in the text boxes on the right hand site of the form.

For further guidance on completing this form go to the Website

Add rows to the following tables as required.

Activity Details

Organisation Name	International Social Service (ISS) Australia
Grant Activity Name	FARS – Intercountry Adoption Australia
Grant Activity ID	4-3HON887

Activity Deliverables

Objective	Deliverable	Time frames	Measures of success	Status	Progress Report

To provide guidance, support and counselling to facilitate the tracing and reunion of intercountry adoptees with their birth family To provide support, information and counselling for intercountry adoptees and their adoptive parents regarding the impact of adoption across the life cycle which complements existing services, e.g. Intercountry Adoption Australia, Intercountry Adoption Family Support Service To provide counselling and support to intercountry adoptees, adoptive parents and birth	Enquiries (Approximately 120 PA) Provide information, support, guidance and counselling to intercountry adoptees and adoptive parents regarding their decision to trace an adoptee's birth family and the tracing process, and / or if they are considering or undertaking independent tracing of their birth families Mode of Service Delivery: face to face, telephone, email and web based. Time Allocation: 25% of Intercountry Adoption Tracing Workers time working on Enquiries. Service: Information, support, guidance, counselling and referrals	Continuing from 15/6/2017 and ongoing	Measured using characteristics defined in the DSS Data Exchange Protocol Number of Enquiries (including data about the countries concerned, Australian State / Territory concerned and intercountry adoptee child or adult concerned) Number of participants (adoptees/adoptive parents/birth families); counted as the number of unique client records Proportion of enquiries that proceed into a case file	Complete	A total of 227 enquiries for ICATRS

Objective	Deliverable	Time frames	Measures of success	Status	Progress Report
families as they begin and progress through the complex reconnection / reunification process					

To provide guidance, support and counselling to facilitate the tracing and reunion of intercountry adoptees with their birth family To provide support, information and counselling for intercountry adoptees and their adoptive parents regarding the impact of adoption across the life cycle which complements existing services, e.g. Intercountry Adoption Australia, Intercountry Adoption Family Support Service To provide counselling and support to intercountry adoptees, adoptive parents and birth	Cases (Approximately 60 PA) Facilitate the tracing of intercountry adoptees' birth family through the resources of ISS Australia's network partners and other relevant agencies in the adoptees' country of origin. Mode of Service Delivery: face to face, telephone, email and web based. Service Delivery Model: 1. Enquiry received and client sent the 'ICA Tracing Pack' 2. Obtain client consent and interview intercountry adoptee &/or adoptive parents, gather background information, provide counselling, information and support in regards to the impact of adoption across the life cycle (which complements existing services, e.g. Intercountry Adoption Australia, Intercountry Adoption Family Support Service), their preparation and motivation to search, as well as exploring their range of expectations and the	Continuing from 15/6/2017 and ongoing	Measured using characteristics defined in the DSS Data Exchange Protocol Number of Cases; counted as the number of unique client records (including minimum data set, intercountry adoptee – child or adult, type of adoption – e.g. ex-pat, country of origin / country concerned, Australian State / Territory concerned) Number of Events / Services instances delivered; counted as the number of service instances Proportion of clients improved well-being and satisfaction of support offered; measured through pre and post assessment and client evaluation Number of records obtained Number of adoptees provided with additional information Number / Proportion of birth families traced Number / Proportion of adoptees reunited with birth family Number of participants (adoptees/adoptive parents/birth families) engaged in counselling for the decision to trace birth family Number of participants (adoptees/adoptive parents/birth families) engaged in counselling during the tracing process Number of participants (adoptees/adoptive parents/birth families) engaged in counselling for the reunification process Number of participants (adoptees/adoptive parents/birth families) engaged in counselling for the impact of adoption across the life cycle • Case studies provided	Complete	103 new cases have been opened and allocated to the ICATRS social workers. See Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service (ICATRS) Report, dated 27/7/18 for detailed information on countries concerned, State etc

| families as they begin and progress through the complex reconnection / reunification process | possible outcomes that could occur

3. Collate information and prepare applications for further adoption records from service providers in-country and overseas. If required, make referrals to other services such as IAA, ICAFSS or other specific support services.

4. Develop and send a referral overseas as per ISS Referral Guide

5. If no official ISS member in the country concerned, or an established Overseas Service Partner, explore potential service as per 'New Overseas Service Partner Protocol'

6. Liaison with Overseas Service Partners and ISS colleagues overseas regarding the progress of referral, providing continued counselling and support in regards to the updates, including referrals to therapeutic services such as ICAFSS and other local specialist services. Especially for cases that may be particularly traumatic or retriggering of trauma.

7. If successful in locating birth family, provide counselling | | | | |

Objective	Deliverable	Time frames	Measures of success	Status	Progress Report
	and support to intercountry adoptees, adoptive parents and birth families as they begin and progress through the complex reunification process, i.e. prepare them for initial contact, introductory letters exchanged, contact supported through an intermediary and support for travel and reunification Note: the level of counselling and support will vary according to each individual clients needs Service: Information, support, guidance, counselling, referrals, tracing, outreach and intermediary services				

Objective	Deliverable	Time frames	Measures of success	Status	Progress Report
Recruitment of Intercountry Adoption Tracing staff	• Recruitment of qualified staff • Staff training requirements, ensuring that staff are trained in the relevant organisational policies and procedures, including Client Charter, complaints and overseas service partner protocols. As well as ICA context and the potential trauma that tracing and reunification may retrigger in some clients. • The staff's training needs would be regularly reviewed through supervision and casework practice meetings	Continuing from 15/6/2017 and ongoing	• Competent staff meeting their clients' needs	Complete	ISS Australia's experienced ICA Tracing Social Workers remained consistent and well trained.

Objective	Deliverable	Time frames	Measures of success	Status	Progress Report
Engaging and recruitment of Overseas Service Partners	• Research and assess potential new partners as per overseas service partner protocols • All new and existing partners are provided with and comply with the ISS Australia *'Guide for Searchers undertaking birth family search and reunion work on behalf of ISS Australia'* and *'Overseas Service Partners Protocol'* • If assessed as viable and there is the demand, enter agreements, MoU or contracts with new Overseas Service Partner, and continue to monitor.	Continuing from 15/6/2017 and ongoing	• Overseas services provided by ethical and reliable partners	Complete	ISS Australia developed a number of documents to assist with the engagement and ongoing working relationships with overseas searching partners, this included: - Partner Protocol - Partner Reference Check - Partner Evaluation - Partner Evaluation Certificate All these documents can be provided however continuing this process and developed MoU or formal contracts was abandoned when the funding cut was learnt.

Objective	Deliverable	Time frames	Measures of success	Status	Progress Report
Develop and implement clear protocols and pathways for client referral to allied health and other support services	• Develop a referral pathways and protocols document to ensure clients are systematically referred to appropriate supports, where necessary	Develop by 31/10/17 and use ongoing	• Clients are referred to additional support services, when necessary	Not Complete	Draft procedures and protocols were developed but not competed after news of the funding cut and because the service would be disbanded.
Monitor Risk and Safety of program participants and respond actively to threats of harm and changes in risk	• Develop a referral pathways and protocols document to ensure clients are systematically referred to appropriate supports, where necessary • Develop a Duty of Care Policy in order to monitor risk and safety	Develop by 31/10/17 and use ongoing	• Clients are referred to additional support services, when necessary	Not Complete	Draft procedures and protocols were developed but not competed after news of the funding cut and because the service would be disbanded.

| Monitor the Services effectiveness in facilitating the tracing and reunion of intercountry adoptees with their birth family | Upgrade and implement data collection systems that comply with funding requirements and the DSS Data Exchange Protocol

Provide DSS with 6 monthly reporting on Client and Service Delivery Data and Outcomes

Provide DSS with 6 monthly Activity Work Plan Progress Report

Review of Service Report | By 30 October 2017

By 30 Jan 18 and 31 July 18

By 30 Jan 18 and 15 Aug 18

By 31 March 2018 | Upgraded Data collection system to be implemented to provide DSS with 6 monthly DSS reporting and Six Monthly Client Data Reporting on the following performance indicators.

• Number of Cases; counted as the number of unique client records (including minimum data set)
• Number of Events / Services instances delivered; counted as the number of service instances
• Number of referrals to services / types of services referred to
• Proportion of clients improved well-being and satisfaction of support offered; measured through pre and post assessment and client evaluation
• Number of records obtained
• Number of adoptees provided with additional information
• Number / Proportion of birth families traced
• Number / Proportion of adoptees reunited with birth family
• Number of participants engaged in counselling for the decision to trace birth family
• Number of participants engaged in counselling during the tracing process
• Number of participants engaged in counselling for the reunification process
• Number of participants engaged in counselling for the impact of adoption across the life cycle | Complete | A purpose built $10k database was developed by InfoXchange to record ICATRS data, however this database will not be used again due to ongoing license fees, no funding to fund the database and the service ending. |

Objective	Deliverable	Time frames	Measures of success	Status	Progress Report
			6 monthly Report on Client and Service Data and Outcomes including details on the progress of MoU and Contracts with Overseas Searching Partners provided to DSS by due date 6 monthly AWP Progress Reporting provided to DSS by due date Conduct a Review of the Service and produce key findings report, also include progress of MoU and Contracts with Overseas Searching Partners		

| Collaboratively enhance best practice on intercountry post adoption tracing with Australian intercountry support networks, ISS network members and other stakeholders in countries of origin | Advisory Group

Maintain Advisory Group that meets quarterly to collaboratively enhance best practice on intercountry post adoption tracing with Australian intercountry support networks, ISS network members and other stakeholders in countries of origin. This includes discussing the service, case studies, systemic and legislative issues and promising practices.

Members of the Advisory Group are:

• s47F – ISS Australia, ICA Manager
• s47F ISS Australia, ICA Coordinator
• s47F – Attorney General's Dept
• s47F s47F – Department of Social Services
• s47F – ISS IRC Geneva
• s47F – Intercountry Adoptee
• s47F Intercountry Adoptee
• s47F – Adoptive Parent
• s47F Academic Griffith University
• s47F – Adoptee / Academic / Professional | Quarterly | • Information exchanged that ensures the ideology and evidence of best practice in ICA tracing and reunification services | Complete | The Advisory Group continued to meet throughout 2017/18 however will not continue due to funding cut. |

Objective	Deliverable	Time frames	Measures of success	Status	Progress Report
	• s47F – Dept of Social Services **Casework Practice Meetings** Workers from ISS Australia's Intercountry Adoption Service will continue to meet monthly to present cases and ICA learning articles in order to collaboratively enhance best practice.	Monthly	Peer support, information exchanged and gathered, which can also be used in Advisory Group Meetings		

Review of Service in March 2018	Review of Service Step 1 Develop a Review of the Service Plan – meet with review team, confirm review criteria and key questions, develop a plan Step 2 Assessing – identifying key stakeholders and clientele, analyse pre and post client assessments, conduct questionnaires and the study Step 3 Analysis – collating and interpreting the service data including the service / client data based on the performance indicators used in this AWP and where the clients were referred to, country concerned, outcome of enquiry, demand by state, client assessments / feedback, any trends or changes in the demand for and nature of services, any learnings and highlights, case studies, review comparative data from 2017 review, produce a key findings report Step 4 Implementing Key Findings – in consultation with DSS incorporate key findings 'best practice' in the service delivery	By 31/11/2017 By 30/3/2018	Provide DSS with detailed Review of the Service plan Produce key findings report that includes strengths and weaknesses, as well as an improvement plan	Complete	A thorough and in-depth Review of the Service was completed and is attached to the Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service (ICATRS) Report, dated 27/7/18.

Objective	Deliverable	Time frames	Measures of success	Status	Progress Report

Ensure our services complement existing State / Territory services, including ensuring State / Territory Governments and key adoption stakeholders are engaged in the establishment of the new service	Meetings with Stakeholders (Total 25 meetings PA) Ensure meetings occur with Commonwealth Central Authority and State / Territory Central Authorities between 1 -2 times PA to ensure collaboration and complementary services. Continue collaborative work with State / Territory CA's involved in ICA tracing and reunion, according to agreements / protocols established. Ensure meetings continue to occur with members of the Advisory Group and key adoption stakeholders (NGOs, Peer and Voluntary Support Groups) across Australia, including the following key stakeholders: • VIC – VANISH, PCA Families, KAiAN • NSW – PARC, Salvation Army, CoAPC, APANSW • QLD – PASQ, Jigsaw, IAFQ • WA – ARCS, Jigsaw, ASFC • SA – PASS	Six monthly Six monthly	Meet or telecon State / Territory Central Authorities to discuss ongoing collaborative work. Provide details of meetings occurred (Government and other key adoption stakeholders), including date, person and organisation details, brief overview of discussion	Complete	ISS Australia has continued to meet with Govt and NGO adoption stakeholders throughout the country.

Risk Management (please note any predicted risks & related mitigation strategies)

Risk	How the Risk will be Managed	Report
	•	

Budget

Items	Budgeted Amount	Expended Amount
From AWP	*From AWP*	
From AWP	*From AWP*	

Stakeholder

Stakeholder	Interest or Impact	Engagement Strategy	Progress Report

Chronology of ISS Australia Funding for Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service (ICATRS)

Date	Action	Attachment
11 September 2015	ISS Australia seeking DSS funding for Tracing and Reunification Service	Letter from ISS Australia detailing Tracing and Reunification Service
6 June 2016	Funding of $516,000 approved by Branch Manager for ICATRS	Authority to Proceed and Spending Minute
27 June 2016	2016- 17 Grant Agreement signed	ISS Australia – DSS Streamlined Grant Agreement 2015-16
14 March 2017	Ministerial Approval of one-off additional funding of $300,000 to ISS Australia A further **$85,000** s47E(d) s47E(d) s47E(d) o allocate to ISS Australia.	MS17-000380
16 March 2017	Additional funding of $50,000 identified for ISS Australia s47E(d) s47E(d)	
5 May 2017	Funding of $435,000 approved by s47F Branch Manager, Children's Policy Branch	Signed authority to proceed spending minute
15 June 2017	Variation to extend ICATRS funding executed with sustainability clause included.	ISS Australia FARS Intercountry Adoption Australia EXECUTED Letter of Variation Grant Agreement International Social Service – Tracing and Reunification Grant Agreement Schedule
4 December 2017	ISS Australia asked what they were doing to identify sustainable non-government funding (in line with grant agreement clause).	

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Chronology of ISS Australia Funding for Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service (ICATRS)

	No action being taken by ISS Australia		
15 January 2018	s47F A/g Group Manager, Families & Communities Policy & Programs Group, wrote to s47F Executive Director, ISS Australia, to formally notify the organisation that funding for the ICATRS is due to cease on 30 June 2018. This is in line with best practice.	Letter from s47F	
19 January 2018:	s47F wrote to s47F s47F to explain there are limited opportunities for ISS Australia to find non-Government support for the ICATRS, and that the ICATRS would close if DSS funding were to cease.	Email to s47F from s47F	
22 January 2018	ISS Australia asked what they were doing to identify sustainable non-government funding in line with the clause in the grant agreement. They stated that they had not yet taken any action.	Phone conversation with s47F Manager, Intercountry Adoption, ISS Australia	
20 February 2018	s47F noted the cessation of funding for the ICATRS in June 2018. s47E(d)	s47E(d)	
20 February 2018	ISS Australia advised that there would be no further funding for ICATRS after the current agreement ends on 30 June 2018. ISS Australia expressed shock.	Phone conversation with s47F Manager, Intercountry Adoption, ISS Australia	
20 February 2018	s47F emailed s47 s47F Branch	Email from s47F	

Chronology of ISS Australia Funding for Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification Service (ICATRS)

	Manager - Children's Policy Branch stating that 'while Departmental staff have stressed the need for ISS Australia to find alternative sources of funding for the service, however it must be clearly understood that finding philanthropic or corporate support for a Government-funded service is extremely difficult; the majority of philanthropic bodies will not even entertain such an idea." A meeting was also requested at this time.	
2 March 2018	s47F President of ISS Australia wrote to s47F xpressing concern about the cessation of funding and asked his office to investigate the funding situation with DSS. The letter also stated that ISS Australia would be open to discussion about different funding models.	Email from MO (with letter attached).

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Australian Government

Department of Social Services

s47F

International Social Service Australia
Level 2, 313 Flinders Lane
MELBOURNE VIC 3000

Dear s47F

Acquittal of 2016-2017 Financial Year - Families and Children & Financial Wellbeing and Capability Funding – Intercountry Adoption Tracing and Reunification

I am writing regarding the acquittal of funding paid to your organisation for the program specified above.

A reconciliation of the financial information you provided has been carried out and the following acquittal determinations have been made, as set out in **Table 1**.

The Underspend Carried Forward Amounts specified in **Table 1** have been approved for use by your organisation until 30 June 2018.

Although funds have been acquitted as outlined in **Table 1**, the Department reserves the right to seek the return of those funds or pursue other remedies if future investigation reveals that the funds were not used in accordance with your organisation's funding agreement.

Should you have any queries in regard to the above please do not hesitate to contact me on s47F
s47F or s47F

Yours sincerely

s47F

Funding Agreement Manager

20 March 2018

GPO Box 9820 Melbourne VIC 3001• Telephone 1300 653 227
National Relay Service: TTY: 133 677, Speak and listen: 1300 555 727, Internet relay: www.relayservice.gov.au
www.dss.gov.au

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Table 1

Please note that all amounts in following table are *GST Exclusive*:

Program Schedule ID	Activity ID	Activity Name	Funded Amount	Previous Financial Year Rollover included in Funded Amount	Acquitted Amount	Underspend Carried Forward Amount
4-3HON889	4-3HOQRG7	Intercountry Adoptee and Family Support - Life Transitions	$516,000.00	Nil	$516,000.00	Nil
4-51C8IXJ	4-51C8IXO	Family and Relationship Services - FARS Intercountry Adoption Australia	$300,000.00	Nil	Nil	$300,000.00
4-51C8IXJ	4-51C8J9P	FARS Intercountry Adoption Australia	$135,000.00	Nil	Nil	$135,000.00

GPO Box 9820 Melbourne VIC 3001• Telephone 1300 653 227
National Relay Service: TTY: 133 677, Speak and listen: 1300 555 727, Internet relay: www.relayservice.gov.au
www.dss.gov.au

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Australian Government

Department of Social Services

Financial Declaration

This form may be lodged by email or mailed to your Grant Agreement Manager listed as DSS's contact officer for notices in your Grant Agreement. If lodging by email please send a scanned copy of the signed form.

Please complete the following form with details of the schedule ID, name of the activity, financial year funding amount (GST Exclusive) and indicate any amount which has not been spent on the activity in accordance with the grant agreement.

Social and Community Services (SACS funding)

Additionally please indicate if your organisation receives SACS funding. Please also indicate if your organisation has not spent the full amount of the SACS funding below. Please note a separate SACS declaration is not required if this form is completed.

Organisation Name   International Social Service Australia   Financial Year 2017-18

Schedule ID (as noted on Grant Agreement)	Activity ID (if known)	Activity Name	Funds carried over from previous financial year (Please enter GST Exclusive $ amount or nil)	Funding Amount Please enter the amount of funding (excluding GST and SACS) received in this financial year	s47E(d)	SACS funding received (Please enter GST Exclusive $ amount or nil)	Unspent SACS funding (Please enter GST Exclusive $ amount or nil)
4-51C81XJ	4-51C8IXO	FARS Intercountry Adoption Australia		$300,00.00		NIL	NIL
4-51C81XJ	4-51C8J9P	FARS Intercountry Adoption Australia		$135,00.00		NIL	NIL

If more rows are required for this declaration, please add additional rows.

Social and Community Services (SACS) funding

By indicating above that you have received SACS funding and by signing this declaration, you are confirming that your organisation:
- have a legal obligation to pay increased wages because of the implementation of Fair Work Australia's Equal Remuneration Order (ERO);
- used the total of the SACS funding to meet the costs associated with the implementation of the ERO; and
- has declared all unspent funds.

This declaration must be certified on behalf of the grant recipient by one of the following: the organisation's board; the chief executive officer; or an officer with authority to do so.

In completing this declaration I acknowledge that giving false or misleading information to the Department is a serious offence under section 137.1 of the *Criminal Code Act 1995* (Cth).

I certify that the 2017-2018 grant funding amounts shown in this declaration have been spent on the activities in accordance with the grant agreement. Any funding which is unspent and uncommitted is stated above.

Name of person making the Declaration	s47F
Signature of person making the Declaration	
Position in organisation	Executive Director
Date of Declaration	2 August 2018
Witnessed by	s47F
Signature of Witness	