



Intercountry Adoption Central Authorities Meeting Communiqué

The Department of Social Services (DSS), the Australian Central Authority (ACA) for intercountry adoption, and State and Territory Central Authorities (STCAs), met virtually on 25 March 2021, to discuss actions arising from the 19 November 2020 STCA meeting.

A representative from the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) also attended.

Attendees reviewed priority areas within the National Action Plan and National Work Schedule of the Commonwealth-State Agreement for the Continued Operation of Australia's Intercountry Adoption Program.

Updates from Australian governments

The ACA provided updates on key intercountry program and policy developments and noted the successful deployment of Ado, the chatbot, on the Intercountry Adoption Australia website.

STCAs provided updates on key developments in each jurisdiction.

DFAT provided an update on COVID-19 travel restrictions.

Country Program Reviews (CPRs)

All STCAs endorsed the Philippines, Chile and Sri Lanka CPRs as implementing sufficient safeguards, in compliance with the Hague Convention. This adds to the Colombia and Taiwan CPRs which were endorsed by all STCAs in November 2020.

Further review of the India and Thailand programs is underway following an initial review.

The ACA and STCAs agreed to schedule the remaining CPRs for completion in the coming six months.

National Practice Agreements (NPAs)

Updated Subsequent Sibling, Relative Child and Known-Non Relative Child NPAs have been finalised and will be submitted to the Children and Families Secretaries Group for final endorsement.

The ACA and STCAs continued discussions on Ad hoc intercountry adoption practice and will work towards a national position on this type of adoption.

Post-adoption Data Analysis

The ACA discussed work to analyse current experiences of adoptees and families post-placement, and identify service or support gaps. This will better inform policy responses for adoptees and their families. STCAs will work with the ACA to contribute practice knowledge to this analysis.