

Summary of statistics for distribution to Parent Support Groups – July 2014

Between 1 July 2013 and 30 June 2014, ICAS held five information sessions. Currently there are 20 families on the pre-entry list. Most of these people however are not eligible for a current program or have a preference for a suspended program (seven families). ICAS don't remove families from this list without their consent and many of these families have been on the list for a long time. For example families who have a preference for India have been on the list on average for four years.

Of the remaining thirteen households four are available for the next intake with the remainder considering their interest, have requested to be inactive or not able to be contacted.

When an opportunity to make an application arises, families on the waiting list as well as families who have previously adopted who have expressed an interest in adopting again are considered. There are currently four families who have previously adopted who expressed an interest in adopting again.

In addition to those above, there are 61 families that at some stage of the adoption process. Seven applications have been accepted and are in the process of being approved. Five have been approved and are waiting to be sent overseas. Thirteen have their files overseas and are awaiting a proposal and five are waiting to send their file overseas. Eight have had a child matched to them and are waiting to travel and 26 have arrived in Australia with their child and are receiving post placement support.

Most of the thirteen files that are overseas waiting are with China's mainstream program (5), Thailand (3) and the Philippines (2). The average waiting time for China's mainstream program is seven years. Thailand is four years and three months and the Philippines is two years and two months.

There have been fourteen placement proposals this year. Nine of these proposals were classified by the sending country as special needs. The programs that made the most placement proposals were Taiwan, Thailand, South Korea and the China special needs program.

This year there has been fourteen children arrive in Australia (out of the 14 arrivals-10 relate to children adopted in this same financial year and 4 relate to children adopted in previous years). Four of these children came from Thailand and three came through the China special needs program. We are awaiting eight more children including three from India, two from the Republic of Korea and one from Thailand.

Post adoption support is a growing area of work for ICAS. This year we have worked with 77 young people and their families, 38 of whom are current. A large proportion of these young people are from the Republic of Korea; 45 for the year with 24 still current.

A separate area of post adoption work has been the final stages of resolving the issuing of Victoria Birth Certificates to children adopted from China. We are please that the regulations have now been changed and we have been able to issue the required memoranda to Births, Deaths and Marriages. To date we have prepared 74 'Memorandums of Adoption' for Births, Deaths and Marriages.