



**Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA**  
Minister for Health  
Minister for Families and Community Services  
Minister for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Affairs

Member for Kurrajong

---

Mr Peter Cain MLA  
Chair of the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety  
ACT Legislative Assembly  
[scrutiny@parliament.act.gov.au](mailto:scrutiny@parliament.act.gov.au)

Dear Chair *Peter*

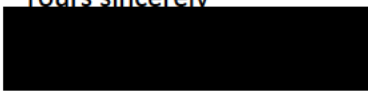
I am writing in response to the comment made by the Standing Committee on Justice and Community Safety in respect of calculation of fees for Disallowable Instrument DI2022-257, the Adoption (Fees) Determination 2022, No 1. These new fees came into effect on 1 December 2022. I note that these fees were not increased in 2020-21.

ACT adoption fees remain relatively low compared to other jurisdictions. The Government continues to subsidise the actual cost of adoptions, even with this increase. The WPI increase was informed by Treasury advice and reflects the minimum increase in the cost of administering the underlying activities.

Activity	Old rate	New rate
2-day education seminar	\$369	\$381
Intercountry adoption application	\$1803	\$1862
Intercountry adoption private assessment	\$3058	\$3157
Intercountry adoption post placement reports	\$1241	\$1281
Step-parent adoption (known adoption) application and assessment report	\$1091	\$1126


The fees are considered reasonable and justifiable given that they are nominal and only partially fund the infrastructure necessary to maintain an overseas adoption program. Further, the fees are not applicable to known adoptions, when the child or young person is in out of home care. In addition, a range of alternative options are available to step-parents of children through Family Law provisions.

Yours sincerely

  
Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA  
27 March 2023

---

ACT Legislative Assembly London Circuit, GPO Box 1020, Canberra ACT 2601

 +61 2 6205 2661

 [stephen-smith@act.gov.au](mailto:stephen-smith@act.gov.au)

 @RachelSS\_MLA

 rachelSSMLA

 rachelss\_mla