



STANDING COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, AGEING AND COMMUNITY SERVICES
CHRIS STEEL MLA (CHAIR), ELIZABETH KIKKERT MLA (DEPUTY CHAIR), VICKI DUNNE MLA,
CAROLINE LE COUTEUR MLA, MICHAEL PETERSSON MLA

Inquiry into referred 2016–17 Annual and Financial Reports
ANSWER TO QUESTION TAKEN ON NOTICE
16 November 2017

Asked by MRS KIKKERT:

In relation to: Requirement for adoptions in the ACT

Can you provide to this committee the assessment criteria currently used to determine if a person or a couple should be allowed to adopt in the ACT?

MINISTER STEPHEN-SMITH: The answer to the Member's question is as follows:–

A person or a couple wanting to adopt a child in the ACT, undergo thorough assessment and receive training and education on adoption.

Before a person or a couple are approved as adoptive parents, Child and Youth Protection Services must be satisfied they have the ability to meet the individual needs of the child for the rest of the child's life. To do this, a variety of suitability checks and assessments are carried out.

These assessments typically include:

- **Interviews:** conducted with the potential adoptive parent(s), those they live with and their existing children to determine their reasons for adoption and to ensure everyone understands the life-long implications and commitment involved.
- **References:** interviews or information provided by people around the adoptive parents to gauge their views on each parent's suitability to provide a life-long family to an adopted child.
- **Police checks:** to identify any previous convictions that may impact their suitability to care for a child.
- **Medical checks:** to identify the likely ongoing health of an adoptive parent to be able to physically and emotionally provide care for a child.
- **Financial checks:** to identify the likely ongoing financial stability of an adoptive parent to be able to provide financially for a child.

More information about adoption in the ACT can be found at:
www.communityservices.act.gov.au/adoption.

Approved for circulation to the Standing Committee on Health, Ageing and Community Services

Signature:

Date:

4/12/17

By the Minister for Disability, Children and Youth, Minister Rachel Stephen-Smith MLA