



ADOPTION NEWS AND VIEWS

NOVEMBER 2011

2011/3

Adoption News and Views is a quarterly newsletter which aims to provide information about adoption of children and about any legal and policy developments affecting adopted children, parents who surrender a child for adoption, and people who adopt a child. It will also provide progress reports on efforts by individuals and groups pressing the government to give a higher priority to enacting new legislation to replace the out of date Adoption Act 1955 and other adoption laws to bring them into line with the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the anti-discrimination provisions in Human Rights Act 1993 and NZ Bill of Rights Act. 1990.

Newsletters will be sent out four times a year. Back issues can be sent by email on request. The main purpose of the newsletter is to provide up-to-date information on current NZ adoption laws, policies and practices and on any proposed changes. Adoption reform developments overseas will also be covered. It is hoped that the Newsletter will also provide a forum for people to discuss adoption issues. Contributions including reviews of books, films etc touching on adoption are invited.

Adoption News and Views is sent to you because you are believed to be a person interested in adoption. If you do not want to receive further issues you should reply to this email indicating this. If you know of others who would like to receive future issues or you or others would like to submit news or views for inclusion in the next newsletter you can reply to this email or ask interested others to do so.

While the aim of this newsletter is to provide an open forum for people interested in adoption issues, the editors reserve the right to decline or abridge any contributions offered.

Robert Ludbrook and Susan Marks Editors

EDITORIAL

Adoption reform low on political agendas in forthcoming election

There is a lot being talked and written about adoption these days but not much interest being shown by political parties in their political manifestos for the election on 26 November. The New Zealand Law Society asked all 12 political parties about their key objectives in the justice portfolio and how they planned to meet those objectives. They were also asked for their views on reform of the Family Court. Nowhere in the responses is there any mention of adoption reform.

All parties seemed to take the reference to the “justice portfolio” as being only about criminal justice despite there being a separate question about criminal law reform. This prompted us to look at the websites of four parties that have in recent years expressed an interest in adoption reform: National Party, Labour Party, Green Party and Maori Party. Again, no mention of adoption reform.

This was odd because:

- The National-led government Minister of Justice in his valedictory speech mentioned adoption reform specifically as an area in which government should grapple despite its difficulty
- Labour Party and Green Party have both accepted that adoption reform is a priority and have drafted or introduced Bills to amend the Adoption Act
- Maori Party has on several occasions assured Adoption Action that adoption reform is a priority for their party.

Approaches to each of the three Parties elicited responses set out below. The concern is that no political party has included adoption reform in their policy agendas for the election. This is despite New Zealand being in default of its obligations in respect of adoption reform under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and having adoption reform identified as a human rights priority by the Human Rights Commission in 2010. The major parties are aware that a claim under the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act is currently pending before the Human Rights Review Tribunal claiming that the Adoption Act and other adoption laws breach the anti-discrimination provisions of our Human Rights Act.

It is hoped that readers of this Newsletter will raise the issue of adoption reform at election meetings and personally with candidates for election

Robert Ludbrook co-editor

Green Party policy on adoption reform

Kevin Hague MP responded to our query why adoption reform was not part of the Green Party election policy shown on its website. His response was:

“In past elections we have campaigned very strongly on policy and have had large volumes of it, most of which nobody reads. This time around our published policy still stands but is not a complete picture. We have focused our campaign around creating jobs, cleaning up rivers, and raising kids out of poverty and have been trying to respond to policy requests with a combination of published policy and comments from the spokesperson.

Our position is that we support a comprehensive overhaul or replacement of the Adoption Act. We would replace the current underlying 'property transaction' model of adoption with one that:

1. Puts the interests of the child at the heart of every decision
2. Makes an ongoing relationship of the child with biological parents and family the default position (except in circumstances like abuse) and
3. Makes all adoptive or enduring guardianship options available, rather than excluding some (such as same sex couples)

Because of the sensitive nature of adoption issues we believe strongly that a cross-Party approach, working in tandem with groups like Adoption Action, provides the best way to achieve this reform. As a third party the Greens are well placed to facilitate this approach, and I will attempt to reconvene the group after the election.”

Maori Party policy on adoption reform

Rāhui Kātene MP for Te Tai Tonga responded to our query thus:

The Māori Party is a strong believer that in issues of adoption, it should be whānau who should be first port of call in adopting mokopuna or children. We see ‘adoption’ as a ‘legal fiction’ – in the presumption that biological parents can be replaced. It is our view that the connection that we have through our whakapapa to our genealogical history should be protected. Whāngai arrangements which operate within the broader context of whakapapa are a way of maintaining those genealogical links while still supporting children. Whānau is where children find the strength and support to become productive, caring members of society that we need them to be. If there is a need for children to be cared for we believe strongly that whānau must be encouraged to care for our children within the family.

Labour party policy on adoption reform

Jacinda Ardern MP responded to our query re Labour Party policy on adoption reform on 13 November 2011 in these terms:

“Yes, adoption reform is part of our policy. We decided to put it in both our Justice and Rainbow policy, but only our Rainbow policy has been released at this stage. There it states that Labour will:

Modernise the law relating to the care of children to ensure that the widest pool of suitable adults is lawfully available to provide care to children in need.”

Adoption Action news

Adoption Action’s Part 1A Claim

As announced in the last newsletter Adoption Action has filed a claim with the Human Rights Review Tribunal claiming that the Adoption Act 1955 and other adoption laws discriminate against certain classes of people on the grounds of their:

- *Sex* (two provisions of Adoption Act and one practice requirement)
- *Marital status* (three provisions of the Adoption Act)
- *Religious or ethical belief* (one provision of Adoption Act)
- *Race or ethnic origin* (two provisions of Adoption Act)
- *National origin* (one provision of Adoption Act)
- *Disability* (one provision of Adoption Act)
- *Age* (one provision of Adoption Act and one provision of Adult Adoption Information Act)
- *Sexual orientation* (three provisions of Adoption Act).

It is claimed that the government, in failing to amend adoption laws, is causing or perpetuating 15 different forms of discrimination which its own laws deem to be unlawful.

The Crown solicitor representing the interests of government has filed a reply to the claim denying all of the claims. This is despite the Attorney-General having conceded in a recent High Court decision that the Adoption Act does discriminate against persons on the grounds of their marital status.

The Crown has asked that the matter be referred to mediation to see if some common ground can be reached. Adoption Action has agreed to mediation and a mediation conference has been set down for 25 November. Information about the outcome of this mediation will be included in our next newsletter.

Conference on adoption reform to be held next year

Adoption Action plans to hold a conference focusing on the need for adoption reform and looking at options for reform early next year. It is anticipated that there will be overseas speakers talking about recent reforms carried out in their countries. We expect that there will be opportunities for different groups affected by adoption to meet and discuss changes in the law that they would like to see.

Adoption Action has been successful in obtaining a grant from the J R McKenzie Trust to assist with the costs of running the conference. More information will be provided in later newsletters.

Members of Adoption Action Inc will receive a reduction in the conference enrolment fee. The membership fee is only \$10 and an application for membership form is attached at the end of this newsletter. By joining, you can help promote long overdue reform of New Zealand's adoption laws.

Adoption News and Views

This is the 16th issue of Adoption News and Views. Back issues will be sent on request. We rely on a large number of people to send in information about developments in the adoption area both in New Zealand and overseas. Particular thanks to Susan Marks, Chrissie Hamilton and Evelyn Robinson for providing a steady stream of information.

We encourage contributions from those with an interest in adoption. If you see an article, read a book or see a movie which raises issues about adoption let us know. Any suggestions for improvement of the Newsletter are always welcome.

Looking ahead

2012 is likely to be an important year for adoption reform. Whichever party wins power there will be a new Minister of Justice who will decide the Ministry's priorities for 2012 to 2014. The Ministry will prepare a *Briefing for the Incoming Minister* and it will be interesting to see whether adoption reform gets a mention.

Adoption Action will try to arrange a meeting with the new Minister early in 2012.

New Zealand adoption news

Simon Power's valedictory address to Parliament

Departing Minister of Justice, Hon Simon Power, in his valedictory address to Parliament on 4 October 2011 had some interesting comments on the need of Parliament to address difficult issues.

"It is our job to tackle the tough issues, the issues the public pays us to front up to and come to a view on. There are many, many debates that Parliament does not want to have, for fear of losing votes or not staying on message: abortion, adoption law, children's rights, and sexual violence issues. I do not share this timid view. The truth is if we do not have those debates here, where will we have them?"

There is no doubt about the Minister's sincerity but early in his term of office a group of people who later formed the nucleus of Adoption Action asked to meet

with the Minister to talk about adoption reform. They were told that such reform was not a priority in the government's three year term. Priorities of the government were on taking a tougher line on criminal justice issues (particularly introducing harsher sanctions for under-17s who break the law). One is left to wonder whether the Minister's hands were tied by his Cabinet colleagues who persuaded him to leave adoption reform alone or whether these comments were a *mea culpa* from the Minister who had shrunk from tackling the "tough issue" of adoption reform. Adoption reform is, of course, also a children's rights issue.

Majority of New Zealanders back gay adoption

A *DigiPoll* survey commissioned by *New Zealand Herald* showed that a majority of voters support changing the law to allow gay couples to adopt children. More than half (54.3 per cent) of the poll respondents agreed that the law should be changed to allow gay couples to adopt children, 38 per cent disagreed, and 7.7 per cent did not know or refused to answer.

The result is the reverse of an online poll conducted from the *Herald* website in 2009, when 41 per cent of 7000 voters were in favour of gay adoption, and 59 per cent were against it.

Outdated adoption laws again highlighted

Adoption Action Inc receives a mention in an article in the *New Zealand Law Journal* written by David Turner, a Judge's Clerk working in the Supreme Court. He starts the article by saying "Adoption law has made the headlines again lately thanks to the work of Adoption Action Inc and the claim it has filed with the Human Rights Review Tribunal." Later in the article Turner comments that "New Zealand's adoption laws could be fairly described as outdated, even antiquated."

Source: *Righting Wrong or Writing Wrong?* [2011] NZLJ 364, November 2011.

Ministry of Justice Consultation Paper on Review of the Family Court

The Ministry of Justice released on 20 September 2011 a consultation paper *Reviewing the Family Court*. Its aim is "to go back to first principles and to look across the whole Family Court system" and "(t)o improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Family Court". It contains 51 pages and a further 30 pages of Appendices but on a rapid read of the document we have been unable to find any reference to adoption cases dealt with by the Family Court.

The Consultation Paper has an impressive section on children's issues in the Family Court but fails to note that:

- the best interests of children are not the paramount consideration in adoption proceedings as in other family law cases and as required by the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCROC);

- there is no requirement that the views of children be ascertained and placed before the Court as required in cases about the guardianship, day-to-day care of, and contact with, children as required by UNCROC;
- there is no provision in our adoption laws for a lawyer to be appointed to represent the child unlike care of children, child protection and youth justice cases. This is also required by UNCROC;
- Children and young adults under 20 years cannot obtain their original birth certificate or other information about their birth parents;
- Children have no right of appeal against an adoption order even though it severs their relationship with their parents and other relatives and gives them a new set of parents and relatives. Under the Care of Children Act 2004 children have a right of appeal against orders for their care and contact.

Adoption Action will be making a submission on the consultation paper and others concerned about children in the adoption process are urged to do so: view www.justice.govt.nz/justice-system-improvements/family-court-review
Closing date for submissions is 29 February 2012.

Adoption statistics for 2010/11

Domestic adoption orders made in New Zealand

Data collected for the year to 30 June 2011 shows that:

- 206 Adoption orders were made by the Family Court in 2010/11 compared with 199 in 2009/10 and 222 in 2008/09
- Adoption reports were prepared by Child, Youth and Family in 2010/11 in respect of the following domestic adoptions:
 - 53 adoptions by a non-relative compared with 60 in 2009/10
 - 50 adoptions by a relative compared with 66 in 2009/10
 - 15 adoptions by a parent and step-parent compared with 21 in 2009/10
 - 2 adoptions by a foster parent compared with 1 in 2009/10.

Intercountry adoptions made in NZ

In 2010/11 the NZ Family Court made 24 adoption orders on an intercountry adoption application by a non-relative and 8 in respect of a relative.

Intercountry adoptions made overseas but recognised in NZ

In 2010/11 there were 238 adoption orders made overseas but recognised in New Zealand as having the same effect as a New Zealand adoption order. In 43 of these adoptions the child was from a country that was a party to the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption and 195 from a country that was not a party to the Convention. The previous year there were 345 such adoptions (63 Hague adoptions and 282 non-Hague adoptions).

Midwife disciplined for promoting adoption of child of a vulnerable mother

In 2009 the New Zealand Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal found charges of professional misconduct proved against a midwife who initiated, promoted and managed arrangements for the adoption of the child she delivered. The adopting parents were the midwife's daughter and son-in-law, and the mother was an ambivalent and vulnerable 17 year old who had limited family support. The Tribunal found that the midwife did not have sufficient insight into the very difficult dynamics of the mother's situation and that she caused harm to the mother. The midwife escaped suspension but rehabilitative conditions were attached to her right to practise and she was ordered to pay costs.

Source: NZ Health Practitioners Disciplinary Tribunal Decision 213/Mid08/106P
12 March 2009.

This decision sounds a warning to health professionals who take on a role of initiating and promoting the adoption of the child of a patient.

Should children be told the truth about their adoption and their birth origins?

The Adoption Act 1955 was passed at a time when closed adoption and sealed adoption records were the norm and it was considered the correct thing to keep from their adopted children the truth about their adoption and birth origins. The Act supports such a view by stating that the effect of an adoption order is to deem the child to become the child of each adoptive parent as if born to that parent in lawful wedlock.

There are stories of children only finding out that they were adopted on their 21st birthday or at their wedding. Those who were told in adulthood often felt a sense of betrayal that they had been denied vital personal information and had been misled or lied to during their childhood. Family Court judges sometimes have to deal with adoption applications where the social worker's report advises that the adoptive parents have not told (or do not propose to tell) the child of his or her adoption and birth origins. In a recent case the judge stated that it was a matter for the adoptive parents when and how to tell the child he or she was adopted. The judge refused to defer making an adoption order so that the adoptive parents could receive counselling on this issue.

Enquiry was made of CYF Adoption Services who advised their policy was:

"We try to ensure that every adopted person will know that he or she has been adopted.

We promote the parents' making this known to their children and it seems unlikely that this would not be known in today's non-relative adoptions. Applicants' intentions become pretty well-known - the application, references,

medical, attendance at preparation classes, meeting with the birthparents (very much the norm) and some degree of ongoing communication”.

Where we have come across a reluctance to tell a child he or she is being adopted - and it is rare - has been in in-family adoptions, extended family or parent-spouse, where the child has been parented from birth or a very early age by the adoptive applicant(s), knows no others(s), and for whatever reason the applicants think it will be in the family interests to leave it that way. As far as I am aware the social worker has usually been able to assist the applicants to overcome their fears and approach the task of telling the child, but would probably still let the court know that it was an issue. See below the practice advice which has been available to social workers in the previous local placements manual but currently awaits inclusion in the Practice Centre.

‘Where applicants are unwilling for the child to know of the adoption take the time to explore their attitudes, emphasise the importance of the child’s right to know his or her birth parentage and to be able to trust in their honesty. Discuss ways of telling the child what others in the family will already know. Explain that this will be included in the court report, with a recommendation to postpone a decision, if necessary, until the matter has been resolved. Counsel to assist the court can be requested for this purpose or as a means to obtain counselling where needed.’

Enquiry was also made whether prospective adoptive applicants when they prepared a profile about themselves and their family would be encouraged to give an indication whether they would or would not tell the child about his or her birth origins.

CYF’s response was:

“It has never happened to my knowledge that an intention not to tell a child of his/her adoption has been included in a profile - in fact as I think about it, we would be unlikely to accept such a profile for presentation on the ground that it would not promote the well-being of the child”.

Adoptee’s access to birth records held by Registrar-General

The grounds on which an adoptee can gain access to court records of the adoption and to birth registration records held by the Registrar-General of Births, Deaths and Marriages are strictly limited. In both cases, adoptees have to obtain a court order that these records be made available to them and to obtain an order they have to prove some “special ground”. A number of court decisions have made it clear that curiosity to learn more about one’s origins and the circumstances of one’s adoption do not constitute a special ground. Some judges have suggested that the greater openness in adoption practice should be recognised and that the strict interpretation of “special

ground” should be revisited. In an interesting decision handed down in September this year Judge Ellis considered various arguments why the applicant’s case for being granted access to her birth records was a special ground and went on to say:

“(t)he application is based on the importance of birth and biological ties to iwi by way of whakapapa. The artificial severing of such relationships by way of ‘European-style’ adoption is a matter not taken into account in the Adoption Act 1955.

The legitimate desire of persons in the position of the adopted person to establish their natural blood-lines and to gain acceptance and acknowledgment by their iwi is, in my view, a ‘special’ consideration – i.e. one that arises in the relatively rare instance of a person of Maori ancestry whose birth relationships have been severed by the fact of adoption.”

Judge Ellis also noted that in a customary Maori ‘adoption’, or whangai placement, a child’s cultural identity or whakapapa were not lost, nor was there any cloak of secrecy around the changed family relationships. He made reference to the Law Commission discussion paper *Adoption: Options for Reform*, NZLC PP38, October 1999 which suggested that the provisions of the Adoption Act 1955 may breach the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi to the extent that they deny Maori the full and exclusive control of their taonga.

An order was made under s76(4) Births, Deaths, Marriages and Relationships Registration Act 1995 permitting the applicant to inspect and to receive a copy of any document necessary for the adoptee to establish her birth link to the iwi of her birth mother.

Parliamentary initiatives

Inquiry into the determinants of wellbeing for Maori children

The Maori Affairs Select Committee initiated on 28 September 2011 an inquiry into the health, education and wellbeing of Maori children. The terms of reference are to inquire into:

1. The historical and current health, education, and welfare profiles of Maori children. This will take account of the transmission of life circumstances between generations, and how this impacts on Maori children.
2. The extent of public investment in Maori children across the health, education, social services, and justice sectors—and whether this investment is adequate and equitable.
3. How public investment in the health, education, social services, and justice can be used to ensure the well-being of Maori children.

4. The social determinants necessary for healthy growth and development for Maori children.
5. The significance of whanau for strengthening Maori children.
6. Policy and legislative pathways to address the findings of this inquiry.

Adoption Action will seek the opportunity to make a submission to this enquiry.

Overseas news

Move in England to increase the adoption of children in care

The Independent newspaper has reported that there have been calls for reform of adoption law and policy in England to increase the adoption of the record number of children who have been taken into care. Only 60 babies were adopted in England last year compared with 150 in 2007 and 4000 in 1976. Local authority social workers are being criticised because they aim to keep families together rather than place children in alternative care with foster parents or adoptive parents.

There are currently 65,520 under-16s in care – the highest number since 1987, and 10 per cent up on 2008 – with 3,660 of them less than a year old. Children are waiting two years and seven months before being adopted, on average, with the process taking longer than three years in a quarter of cases, according to the Department of Education statistics. The average age at adoption now stands at three years and 10 months. The total number of adoptions has fallen significantly since 2007, down 8.4 per cent to 3,050.

Part of this can be attributed to fewer babies being put up for adoption, due to higher numbers of terminated pregnancies, but there is despair at the mass of bureaucracy, despite government promises of reform. Anne Marie Carrie, chief executive of the children's charity Barnardo's, called the figures "deeply worrying". She said: "Everyone involved in the care system needs to be braver and should act fast to place children with a new permanent family when it is clear that, even with support, the child's birth family is not going to change and cannot cope. It is imperative that decision-making is sped up at every stage of the adoption process, as we know that by the time a child is four they have a far lesser chance of being adopted than a baby."

The Children's Minister, Tim Loughton, told *The Independent* that the figures were disappointing, but not surprising adding that. "There is no excuse for children in care who should be put up for adoption languishing for one day more than they should do. We need to speed up the process so the whole thing is done much quicker."

Mr Loughton called for babies put up for adoption to be fast-tracked through the system, to prevent lengthy periods in care. The number of children from ethnic minorities finding new families remained low, representing only four per cent of the total. There is anecdotal evidence that social workers are urged to delay adoption placements in the hope of finding a racial match.

Three-quarters of the children in care, or about 48,000, were placed with a foster family. Twelve per cent (almost 8,000) were cared for in residential accommodation. A third of young adults who left care were not in education, employment or training last year.

One reason in the fall of number may be the difficulties encountered by parents who adopt children who have been in care. Last year the *Observer* Sunday paper indicated that one in three adoptions of children aged four and over break down and fewer parents are willing to open their doors to children who have been in the care system. The article is critical of the lack of support for adoptive parents struggling to cope with traumatised children. A further difficulty is that one in five children waiting to be adopted are from an ethnic minority and social workers try to place these children with adoptive parents from their own ethnic group, This means that such children take three times as long to be placed. The Children's Minister has argued that there should be no barrier to minority children being adopted by white parents and has criticised social workers as

The Independent 28 September 2011

The Observer Special Report "Cut adrift without support: the anguish of parents who adopt" 7 November 2010

The Guardian *The Truth About Inter-racial Adoption* 3 November 2010.

Trafficking of Samoan children to Australia via New Zealand

In August this year the website *Stuff* reported that Australia's Family Court had heard evidence of young Samoan children being trafficked through New Zealand in order to secure Australian residency. The Judge ruled a four-year-old girl, who had been informally given to a Sydney couple under a traditional Samoan adoption arrangement, should return to her parents in Samoa. He commented that a subterfuge had been used to get the girl a New Zealand passport and the court heard the same process had been used for other children.

The girl had been promised to a childless great aunt and her husband before birth, but had lived with her parents and seven siblings in Samoa until she was nearly two years old. She was taken to Sydney with the intention of handing her over to the childless couple but the mother changed her mind and wanted to take her back to Samoa. The couple had obtained an order preventing her return to Samoa.

It appears from the *Stuff* report that an adoption order was made in Samoa and this was recognised as having the effect of a New Zealand adoption order by virtue of s17 Adoption Act 1955. On this basis the child was issued with a New Zealand passport and thereby gained entry into Australia pursuant to a Trans Tasman Visa. The Court found that the passport had been obtained by means of a false statement. It ruled that it would be best for the child who related to both sets of parents be returned to her mother's care in Samoa.

The court heard that several other children had been moved into Australia in a similar fashion. The judge said that the case revealed breaches of the Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime.

Concern about Samoan adoptions and their recognition under s 17 had been expressed more than a decade earlier by the New Zealand Law Commission which commented that adoptions made in Samoa do not require the local court to inquire into the suitability of the applicant(s) who do not even have to appear before the Court. It seems that there is no inquiry into the child's circumstances or the appropriateness of the adoption. Once a Samoan adoption order is made it is accepted as having the same effect as a New Zealand adoption order without any involvement of Child, Youth and Family or the New Zealand Family Court.

This is yet another example of the deficiencies of the Adoption Act 1955. The Law Commission recommended substantial changes to section 17. Its report indicated that, in six months in 1999, 78% of adoptions recognised under s17 were Samoan adoptions. Figures are not released annually on the countries whose adoptions are given the same status as NZ adoptions so we cannot be sure whether the problem continues.

Sources: Michael Field *Stuff* 30 August 2011

Adoption and its Alternatives: A Different Approach and a New Framework NZLC R65, September 2000 at para 306

Australian Senate inquiry into past adoption practices extended

The Australian Senate has extended until February 2012 its Community Affairs Committee inquiry into the Commonwealth involvement in former forced adoption policies and practices because it has continued to receive submissions from throughout Australia.

Submissions to the inquiry should be sent to Senate Community Affairs Committee, Department of the Senate, PO Box 6100, Canberra 2600, before February 28 2012. Notes to help prepare a submission are available at www.aph.gov.au/senate/committee/wit_sub/index.htm

Books and Research

Australian Journal of Adoption

This Journal continues to provide excellent articles on a wide range of topics relating to adoption. It is only available online and is free to anyone interested: view www.nla.gov.au/openpublish/index.php/aja

The latest issue (Volume 2 No 3) contains five papers by New Zealand authors including a doctoral thesis and four research papers by academics and students connected with Auckland University of Technology. These are:

Challenges of Identity for Maori Adoptees: by Erica Newman
Intercountry Adoptions of Eastern European Children in New Zealand: Issues of Culture by Rhoda Scherman Doctoral Thesis

An Investigation into Lived Experience of New Zealand Birthmothers in Open Adoption by Nelly Kalizinje Honours Thesis

An Exploratory Study of Adoptive Fatherhood: Biological Relatedness, Father-Child Attachment, Stress and Coping by Anisha Khambatta (Honours Thesis)

Teachers' Perspectives of School Life of Children Adopted from Eastern European Countries by Hanhee Lee (Honours Thesis)

A Narrative Exploration of the Bicultural Experiences of Youth from Eastern Europe Adopted in New Zealand by Darshana Pratheepa Poonampalam (Honours Thesis)

It is hoped to include more detail of these important research papers in the next issue of *Adoption News and Views*

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The Membership application form is attached below



APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP OF ADOPTION ACTION INCORPORATED

Adoption Action Inc
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 Island Bay
 Wellington 6023

I wish to apply for membership of Adoption Action Incorporated and attach a cheque for \$10 in payment of the fee for membership for the current financial year ending 31 March 2012

Name
 Address

Email
 Phone or mobile no.

Signature
 Date

#Optional: My interest in adoption is as an adopted person/ natural parent/adoptive parent/ other (please specify)

#Members receive a copy of the quarterly e-newsletter *Adoption News and Views*

If you do not want to receive copies of this newsletter please state here:

#Adoption Action Inc is planning a conference early next year with a focus on reform of New Zealand's adoption laws. If you are interested in attending or contributing to the conference please indicate below:

Interested in attending Yes/No

If yes indicate way in which you might contribute