



38 Derwent Street
Island Bay
Wellington 6023
Aotearoa New Zealand

Annual General Meeting 4 August 2015 – Convenor's Report

It is now almost five years since our incorporation in September 2010. We welcomed new committee member Louise Brazier at last year's AGM.

PART 1A CLAIM

It has been very disappointing that to date we have not had a decision in our Part 1A claim. It is our understanding that the Human Rights Review Tribunal is under-resourced and this has been a contributing factor as to why a decision has not been given. We originally filed proceedings in July 2011 with the Human Rights Tribunal. The claim was heard by the Human Rights Tribunal in Wellington, commencing on 18 November 2013. The hearing ran over eight days, but because of the unavailability of some Tribunal members, it then had to be adjourned until 13 January 2014, when it ran for another two days. Further details of the proceedings were reported in the Convenor's report of 12 May 2014.

We believe that the lack of action by the Human Rights Review Tribunal is unacceptable as rights delayed are rights denied. In July 2015 we again contacted the Tribunal expressing our concern at the delay and enquiring when a decision might be likely. Copies were sent to the Human Rights Commission and to the Minister of Justice, Amy Adams. As at August 2015, now 18 months since the end of the hearing, the Human Rights Review Tribunal has not been able to give a decision.

UNCROC SUBMISSION

We were pleased to forward our UNCROC submission on 27 February 2015 titled *Adoption Law and Practice and the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child* to UNCROC@msd.govt.nz. A copy of our submission can be found on our website <http://adoptionaction.co.nz/>

GENERAL

We are again very grateful to Charlotte von Dadelszen of Buddle Findlay for hosting Adoption Action's meetings.

In my roles as contact person for Adoption New Zealand, Adoption Support for Adopted People and Adoption Action, the correspondence and phone calls from people affected by this legislation has included an increase in contact from siblings of adopted people. Adoption Action has been supportive where possible to provide help for these enquiries and is of the strong opinion that it is important that all family members are better supported by future legislation. The enquiries further highlight the inadequacies in the current legislation.

Fiona Donoghue
4 August 2015