

MINISTER'S FOREWORD

There have been major changes in community views and values since the *Adoption of Children Act 1964* was proclaimed. Although the Act has been amended since then, this is the first time it has been comprehensively reviewed.

The review of Queensland's adoption legislation recognises the importance of adoption in the lives of many Queensland families. In particular, it recognises the importance of providing the best possible adoption services to children requiring adoptive placements, parents considering adoption for their child and people expressing interest in adopting a child.

The review consultation process will enable stakeholders and interested people to express their views about adoption policy and proposed legislative responses to a number of important issues. Community views and issues raised by stakeholders in the consultation process will be taken into consideration during the preparation of the State's new adoption laws.

This consultation paper has been designed to ensure Queenslanders have an opportunity to comment on significant changes being proposed for the future delivery of adoption services, and to contribute to developing new child-focused adoption legislation. Many people will want to comment on only some aspects of adoption policy so the consultation paper is structured so specific chapters can be selected, rather than reading the entire document.

Please keep in mind that the views expressed in this consultation paper are for consultation purposes only and are not endorsed policy positions of the Queensland Government.

I encourage anyone who wishes to express their views about the future of Queensland's adoption legislation and services to make a submission during the consultation period, 8 July to 28 October, 2002.

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Minister for Families