



INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION INTERSTATE TRANSFER OF ADOPTION APPLICATIONS

On occasions, prospective adoptive parents relocate interstate during the course of their adoption application. When this occurs, the intercountry adoption application must be formally transferred from the Initial State/Territory Central Authority to the Receiving Central Authority. Relocation alters an adoption application and this must be reflected in an “update assessment”. By definition, the move will involve a new residence, and potentially changes to social supports, employment and other significant elements of an adoption application.

An interstate transfer protocol has been developed to minimise the disruption to relocating prospective adoptive families and to ensure there is access to consistent information. This protocol applies to those families wishing to relocate interstate **after** their application has been approved by their Initial Central Authority, and is a guide only. Cases involving prospective adoptive parents wishing to transfer their file interstate prior to approval are considered on a case-by-case basis by the relevant Central Authorities. This is due to the inherent challenges involved in transferring an application where the assessment has not been completed.

There are differences in legislation, policy, criteria and fees between the States and Territories. It is the responsibility of prospective adoptive parents to discuss their specific circumstances with their Central Authority prior to committing to relocating.

Families are responsible for contacting their Central Authority as soon as possible, should they be considering relocating interstate during the course of their adoption application.

Key steps in transferring an adoption application:-

1. Prospective adoptive parents inform their Initial Central Authority of their intention to relocate. They consider their specific circumstances and seek advice from both the Initial and Receiving Central Authority, where appropriate.
2. Following the consent of the prospective adoptive parents, the Initial Central Authority will forward the application to the Receiving Central Authority.
3. The Receiving Central Authority will conduct an “update assessment”.
4. If the application is approved by the Receiving Central Authority, the Central Authority will inform the relevant overseas adoption authority (where appropriate).

Definitions:

Initial Central Authority refers to the Central Authority in the State or Territory in which the prospective adoptive parents currently have an application. *Receiving Central Authority* refers to the Central Authority in the State or Territory in which the prospective adoptive parents’ application for intercountry adoption will be, or has been, transferred. *Adoption application* refers to an active adoption application, including the period of post-placement supervision.