

ADOPTIONS INTERNATIONAL OF WA, DELAY IN REVIEWING APPLICATION

3005. Mrs C.L. Edwardes to the Minister for Community Development, Women's Interests, Seniors and Youth

I refer the Minister to the application by Adoptions International of WA (AIWA) to become a licensed and accredited Adoption Agency and ask -

- (a) will the Minister explain the reason that it took from May 2001 until March 2003 for the application to become an accredited Adoption Agency to be sent to AIWA;
- (b) will the Minister explain the reason that it took three months, from the date the application was received into the Minister's office, until a review committee was established to look into the AIWA application;
- (c) when did the review committee report to the Minister;
- (d) where there any references from the review committee that needed to be followed up by your Department or any other Government Agency;
- (e) when does the Minister expect to be able to inform AIWA of the outcome of their application;
- (f) will the Minister make a copy of the review committee's report available to AIWA; and
- (g) will the Minister investigate why it has taken since May 2001, when the first request for an application to become a licensed and accredited adoption agency was made, until now?

Ms S.M. McHALE replied:

- (a) The process was extensive and included: consultation with the State Solicitor's Office; clarification of the required services and functions; and development of an appropriate application process to meet the terms of Hague Adoption Convention. Staff were also highly involved in major amendments to the Adoption Act, which was a major priority and expectation for those organisations involved in Adoption of Children.
- (b) It was necessary to ensure Committee membership included representation of cultural and ethnic backgrounds, and an understanding and expertise in the area of a service that considers the best interests of children to be paramount.
- (c) 15 January 2004
- (d) Yes.
- (e) Additional information was requested of AIWA on 16 June 2004 and was received from AIWA at the end of July 2004. Advice is currently being prepared for the Minister's consideration. AIWA will be informed of the decision as soon as possible.
- (f) This issue will be considered after all enquiries have been completed.
- (g) Refer to (a).