

# CHINA

## ADOPTION INFORMATION GUIDE



**Department for Community Development  
Government of Western Australia**

**ADOPTION SERVICE  
DEPARTMENT FOR COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT**

189 Royal Street, East Perth, Western Australia 6004  
PO Box 6334, East Perth, Western Australia 6892

**Adoption Service Staff**

Adoption Service Manager	Colin Keogh
Team Leader	Bob Sprenkels
Information Officer	Trish Clarkson
Programme Manager	Kelly Lloyd
Social Worker	Bronwyn Loker

Telephone 9222 2555  
Country callers 1800 622 258  
Fax 9222 2607  
Email [adoptions@dcd.wa.gov.au](mailto:adoptions@dcd.wa.gov.au)

**All information contained in this guide is prepared and published in good faith and is subject to change.**

**Produced by**

**Adoption Service, Department for Community Development**

Ni hao!

Welcome to the Department for Community Development, Adoption Service, guide to adopting from China.

This guide is written to help you understand the processes involved in the adoption of a child from China, from your earliest considerations, through to the completion of an adoption. It gives an overview of the various steps you will need to go through and outlines documentation requirements.

This guide does not prepare you for parenting an adopted child. It does not discuss issues such as attachment, cultural continuity and open adoption. Applicants are encouraged to familiarise themselves with these adoption issues by reading adoption literature and contacting adoption services listed in this guide for further information.

Adoption is a long, detailed and often emotional process that can at times seem overwhelming. We have endeavoured to provide a thorough overview of the process in this guide, whilst trying to ensure that information is as concise and clear as possible. The processes of adoption and the China Adoption Program are subject to change; the web guide will be updated regularly by your Program Manager. *Whilst every attempt has been made to ensure the information in the guide is accurate, it is subject to change without notice.* Your Program Manager at Adoption Service will support you through the process and answer any questions that may arise for you along the way.

The adoption process consists of the following stages:

- 1. Enquiry**
- 2. Education Program**
- 3. Application, Assessment and Approval**
- 4. Homestudy**
- 5. Waiting and Matching of a Child**
- 6. Allocation of a Child**
- 7. Consideration Period**
- 8. Acceptance and Immigration**
- 9. Process Prior to Travel**
- 10. The Adoption Process in China**
- 11. Return to Western Australia and Post Adoption Requirements**

Stages one, two and three are discussed in detail at the Information Seminar and the Assessment Seminar.

The Enquiry stage refers to your initial enquiry to Adoption Service and your attendance at the Information Seminar. The Education Program Stage consists of a number of seminars, attendance at which is a requirement for any couple or individual interested in adopting a child. The seminars provide information about the issues surrounding adoption, as well as providing references for you to explore and expand your understanding of adoption. The Education program is designed to assist you to make an informed decision about adopting a child. The Application, Assessment and Approval stage refers to the formalities of applying to adopt a child, meeting with an Adoption Assessor, and having your application considered by the Adoption Applications Committee.

This guide aims to provide you with an introduction to the China Adoption Program and an understanding of the processes involved once the Adoption Applications Committee has approved an application to adopt; stages four to eleven. This should be a happy time for applicants, and we hope that the guide will be a helpful resource to keep you informed along the way! And please also remember that your Program manager is available should you need further clarification or assistance.

Your Program manager invites your feedback concerning the guide – any contributions that you feel would assist those applicants who follow you in their adoption from China would be greatly appreciated.

# CONTENTS

<b>Introduction</b>	3
<b>GLOSSARY</b>	7
<b>MAP, PROVINCES AND CAPITAL CITIES</b>	9
<b>INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA PROGRAM</b>	11
History of Intercountry Adoption	11
History of the China Program	12
Adoption Agreement between Australia and China	13
China Centre for Adoption Affairs (CCAA)	13
China Women's Travel Service (CWTS)	14
Translation Service – The Bridge of Love Adoption Service (BLAS)	14
<b>CHAPTER ONE: CRITERIA</b>	
1.1 Western Australia's Criteria for Adoption	15
1.2 China's criteria for adoption	15
1.3 Children requiring an adoption placement	17
	20
<b>FLOW CHART – PROCEDURE FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION</b>	23
<b>CHAPTER TWO: APPLICATION PROCESS</b>	
2.1 Summary of stages and documents	
2.2 Adoption Procedure Checklist	24
2.3 Summary of costs	30
	30
<b>CHAPTER THREE: HOMESTUDY</b>	
3.1 Documents required	31
3.1 Undertaking for intercountry adoption applicant(s)	34
3.3 Authentication and certification	35
3.4 Checklist	36
<b>CHAPTER FOUR: MATCHING OF A CHILD</b>	
4.1 The Allocation of a Child	37
4.2 Case review and offer of a child	37
<b>CHAPTER FIVE: ACCEPTANCE AND IMMIGRATION</b>	
5.1 Acceptance/Non Acceptance	38
5.2 Immigration	38
Lodging of Immigration Sponsorship Applications	39
5.3 Migration Checklist	39
5.4 Child's Passport and Adoption Visa	40
5.5 Child's New Name	40
5.7 Flowchart	41

<b>CHAPTER SIX: PROCESS PRIOR TO TRAVEL</b>	43
6.1 Notice of Coming to China for Adoption	44
6.2 Visa	43
6.3 Documents	44
6.4 Travel arrangements	45
6.5 Fees	47
<b>CHAPTER SEVEN: ARRIVAL IN CHINA</b>	
7.1 Meeting your guide and child	48
7.2 Visits to Child's Orphanage	48
7.3 Adoption Agreement	48
7.4 Registration of the Adoption Agreement	49
7.5 Obtaining a Passport for the Child	50
8.6 Medical Examination	50
7.7 Obtaining a Visa for Entry to Australia	51
7.8 Useful Contacts	51
<b>CHAPTER EIGHT: CHINA</b>	
Facts in brief	
8.1 Cultural information	52
7.2 Useful tips from adoptive parents	52
<b>CHAPTER NINE: RETURN TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA</b>	
9.1 Meeting with Program Manager	54
9.2 Additional information	54
9.3 Post placement requirements	55
9.4 Recognition of the Chinese Adoption Order in Australia	55
9.5 Child's Australian citizenship and passport	55
9.6 Case closed	56
9.7 Post Adoption Services	56
9.8 Contact with China	56
<b>APPENDIX</b>	
Program Manager	57
Hague Convention	57
Useful websites and books and articles	58
<b>NOTES</b>	59

## GLOSSARY

Adoption at times seems to have a language of its own! There are numerous organisations and terms involved that can often cause confusion for applicants; we hope this glossary will assist you to navigate the terminology of Adoption.

**AAC** - Adoption Applications Committee – a board of people with expertise in the area of adoptions which meets once a month. The AAC considers applicant's suitability to adopt. The Adoption Assessment Report is submitted to the AAC and is used to make a decision about an applicant's suitability.

**(The) Adoption Act or The Act** – The Western Australian Adoption Act, 1994 (WA legislation)

**Allocation** – Child offered to Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) for the purpose of adoption prior to placement.

**ARCS** – Adoption Research and Counselling Service is a non-government adoption organisation. .

**AS** – Adoption Service. Adoption Service is the only approved organisation in WA authorised to arrange adoptions both overseas and locally.

**Assessment** – all adoption applicant(s) need to be assessed by AS prior to being approved to adopt a child either locally or from overseas.

**Adoption Assessment Report** – A report, which the assessor has written based on client interviews, referee reports, medical and police checks etc. This report is submitted to the AAC.

**ASFC** – Adoption Support for Families and Children is a non-government adoption organisation.

**Authentication** – Documents to be officially sealed and bound by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Australia, prior to sending overseas.

**BLAS** – Bridge of Love Adoption Service for translation of documents.

**CCAA** - China Centre for Adoption Affairs. (<http://www.china-ccaa.org>). This is the approved adoption organisation in China that arranges the allocation of children to Prospective Adoptive Parent(s). Adoption Service is the only authorised body to liaise with CCAA concerning the allocation of children.

**CWTS** – China Women's Travel Service. This service is contracted to provide translations of documents, support and guidance, and translation when applicant(s) travel to China to pick up their child.

**DCD** – Department for Community Development

**CEO** – Chief Executive Officer of Department for Community Development

**DIMA** – Department of Immigration, Multicultural Affairs, Australia.

**FCS 32** - Financial Statement Form – to be filled in by Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) for the Adoption Assessment Report and Homestudy, assessment updates and Hon Judge report.

**Form 40CH** – Immigration Sponsorship of your adopted child. You need to lodge this with DIMA together with Form 47CH in order to obtain your adopted child’s visa clearance.

**Form 47CH** – Application for Migration to Australia. You need to lodge this DIMA together with Form 40CH in order to obtain your adopted child’s visa clearance.

**Hague Convention** – Hague Convention for Protection of Children and Cooperation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption. This is a convention to prevent the trafficking and sale of children by putting in place an agreement of minimum standards for intercountry adoption. Australia signed the Convention on 25 August 1998 and it was later ratified on 1 December 1998.

**Hague country** – Those countries that have signed and ratified the Hague Convention.

**HAS** – Health Assessment Service of DIMA – which approves or rejects the Child’s Medicals for immigration purposes. This will determine if the Child is cleared for entry into Australia or not.

**Homestudy** – The application package requested by the sending country for all applicants, who seek to adopt a child through their program. The package of documents provides an overview of the applicant(s) circumstances and is used to enable the sending country to determine the applicant’s suitability and to match children to families that best meet their needs. Each sending country determines their own homestudy requirements. The Assessment Report is included in all Homestudy requirements.

**Information Officer** – Provides information about adoption process. Prepares and manages documentation from Expression of Interest stage until Homestudy goes overseas.

**Intercountry Adoption** – Adoption of children from overseas countries.

**Notarisation** – Documents to be stamped and signed by a recognised Notary Public (solicitor) in Australia.

**Notary Public** – also commonly called Public Notary, is usually a practitioner/solicitor appointed by the Full Court as a practising public notary in WA, Australia.

**PAP** – Prospective Adoptive Parent

**Placement** – Child is officially placed into the care of the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s).

**Program Manager** – The appointed Social Worker from Adoption Service who liaises with the particular overseas country on intercountry adoptions; who provides support to applicant(s) with that country and who supervises the placements of adopted children from that country.

**PRC** – People’s Republic of China

**VAC** – Visa Application Charge. This is the fee that you will need to pay at the Department of Multicultural and Immigration Affairs. This is currently \$1305AUD and it is non-refundable.





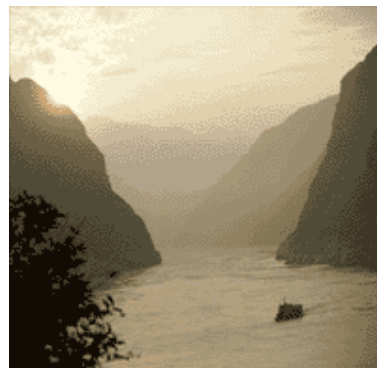
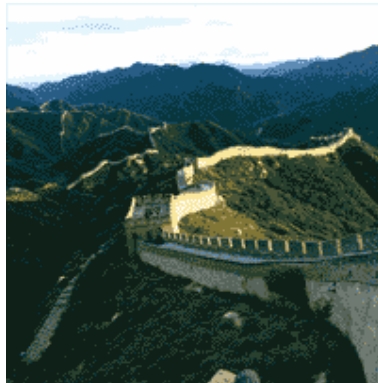
**Special Municipality:** Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing and Tianjin

Province	Capital City	Province	Capital City
Hebei	Shijiazhuang	Heilongjiang	Heilongjiang
Shandong	Jinan	Shanxi	Xian
Jiangsu	Nanjing	Henan	Zhengzhou
Anhui	Hefei	Hubei	Wuhan
Zhejiang	Hangzhou	Jianxi	Nanchang
Fujian	Fuzhou	Hunan	Changsha
Liaoning	Shenyang	Guangdong	Guangzhou
Jilin	Changchun	Hainan Dao	Haikou
Guangxi	Nanning	Guizhou	Guiyang
Yunnan	Kunming		

Gansu, Lanzhou; Qinghai, Xining; Sichuan, Chengdu

### FACTS IN BRIEF

- Area: 9.6 million km<sup>2</sup> (1.25 times the size of Australia)
- Population: Exceeding 1.26 billion people (almost a quarter of the world's total)
- Government: Controlled by Communist Party
- Capital: Beijing
- Currency: RMB (pronounced Renmenbi or usually referred to as Yuan)
- Climate: Various climates ranging from below zero temperature in the north or warm temperate temperature in the south.
- Ethnic group: 92% Han Chinese  
8% different minority groups
- Language: Mandarin (Putonghua)



## **INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ADOPTION PROGRAM**

### **INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION**

The concept of intercountry adoption has its origins in the aftermath of the two World Wars, but particularly after World War II, when the disruption of families in war-torn countries resulted in large numbers of abandoned and orphaned children. Children from Germany, Greece and the Baltic States were sent by religious organisations for adoption in other European countries and in the USA. From 1953 large numbers of orphaned or abandoned children from the Korean war were adopted overseas. In Australia, however, intercountry adoption is a relatively recent practice: prior to 1975 there were few intercountry adoptions. It only became a recognised avenue of adoption following the airlift in 1975 of Vietnamese war orphans to Western nations: the 292 children who came to Australia were adopted by Australian families. Since then, adoption of children from Asia and Latin America has become well established in Australia.

Intercountry adoption has endured as a response to the needs of children orphaned, abandoned or relinquished because of military conflict, poverty and political policy, and stigmas attached to illegitimacy, disablement or mixed race.

Since the 1970's another momentum has overtaken the original impetus for intercountry adoption. Economic, demographic, cultural and political changes in Australia in the past thirty years have resulted in fewer unwanted births and less pressure to relinquish ex-nuptial children for adoption. Additionally, social changes have led to many people waiting later in life to begin establishing their family, and consequently, infertility is increasing and being discovered at a later age. The two-fold effect of these factors is a marked decrease in the availability of Australian-born children for adoption and a significant increase in the number of people wanting to adopt. As a result, increasing numbers of couples and individuals have turned to intercountry adoption to begin or extend their families.

It can be seen, then, that intercountry adoption is a shifting, evolving phenomenon, responding to both domestic and international forces.

Intercountry adoption is a sensitive and complex area of adoption. It involves all the issues relating to domestic adoptions as well as a range of other issues. Moreover, it involves Australian immigration law and policy, the laws and policies of the overseas countries, and obligations under international conventions.

Because the children are being placed internationally and almost always interracially, issues relating to cultural heritage arise. Many of the children, including babies, are likely to be physically and/or emotionally vulnerable because of early physical and/or emotional deprivation. Some children have "special needs" because they are older and/or have disabilities.

Intercountry adoption has frequently been associated with intense controversy. At one end of the spectrum, there is the view that it is a form of exploitation of Third World countries by First World countries and should be discontinued. It can be argued that intercountry adoption does not provide a solution to the domestic issues leading to adoption and that this situation benefits first world countries where there is a high demand for babies. At the other end of the spectrum, there is the view that intercountry adoption is a humanitarian act, towards both individual children and the sending countries, and is thus a form of overseas aid; that in first world countries there are high numbers of people wanting to adopt children and it should be encouraged to develop and expand. There are numerous intermediate positions.

## HISTORY OF THE CHINA PROGRAM

Intercountry adoptions started in the Peoples Republic of China (PRC) in around 1988. The USA immigration records show that 12 adoptions of children from China occurred that year. Historically adoption has been somewhat of a taboo subject in China, and consequently the first Chinese Adoption Legislation was passed only in April 1992. Since then the intercountry adoption program has grown considerably. During the fiscal year of 2005, The US Department of State reports that 7906 American Immigration Visa's were processed for orphaned children being adopted by American Families. In Australia, during the 2004/05 financial year, a record 434 Intercountry Adoptions occurred, including the adoption of 140 children from China (as published in the Adoptions Australia 2004-2005 Report, by the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, Canberra).

The one child policy has a direct influence on the numbers of children abandoned in the PRC. The policy varies from province to province. However, it is reasonable to say that in the major cities it is strictly observed. In some provinces families are allowed two children and in others families may have girls until the first son is born. This result combined with a cultural preference to have a son and to maintain bloodlines means that many children are abandoned at birth - mainly girls or children with a disability. Children born out of wedlock or from parents with social and/or mental health issues are also likely to be placed for adoption.

There are various figures given for the number of children in institutions on the PRC. The China Centre for Adoption Affairs indicate that the majority (about 90%) of children in children's welfare institutions have a disability and are not placed for adoption. Many families in the PRC pay for their disabled child to be cared for by children's welfare institutions.

Some domestic adoptions are done in the PRC. Recent changes to Chinese adoption law make it easier for domestic adoptions to occur. The China Centre for Adoption Affairs believe numbers of domestic adoptions will increase in the future. It is difficult to establish reliable statistics for domestic adoption in China, however various sources state that domestic adoption levels are currently equal to Intercountry Adoption levels, and that the PRC aim toward undertaking 8 domestic adoptions to each International adoption.

The PRC is sensitive about public criticism of their management of children's welfare institutions. The screening of a 60 Minutes program in 1995 and a report on the Shanghai Children's Welfare Institution released in 1996 resulted in the Children's Welfare Institutions being closed to foreigners. Conditions in orphanages are reported to have improved significantly over the past decade, although the standard of care across welfare institutions varies quite broadly in line with regional wealth and poverty. Whilst some Welfare Institutions permit visits by Adoptive parents, it may not be possible to gain permission to visit others.

The first adoptions of Chinese children by Western Australian families occurred in 2000, two children were adopted that year. Since then the interest in the PRC Adoption Program has flourished and the number of adoptions has continued to increase. According to the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) nation-wide, between 2000 to 2001 there were 15 children adopted from China (1 male and 14 females). Between 2001 to 2002 there were 39 children, in 2002 to 2003 there were 46 children and in 2003 /2004 there were 112 children adopted from China.

Ages of the children placed with Western Australian Families have ranged from 8 months to up to seven years. There have been a small number of boys placed with Australian adoptive parents, but the majority of children requiring adoptive families are girls. In 2006 CCAA advised that they have a very limited need for placements for healthy children aged 2-6 years.

Currently CCAA will only consider adoption applications approved to provide homes for healthy children aged 2 years and under, older children (6+), and special needs children. Consequently, if you are an older applicant (see the WA age differential requirements) you may not be able to adopt from this country.

For Australian Statistics and Information on Intercountry Adoption log onto the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare website to view the most recent Adoption Australia Report: <http://www.aihw.gov.au>

## **ADOPTION AGREEMENT BETWEEN AUSTRALIA AND CHINA**

The Australian state and territory community services Ministers agreed to establish an intercountry adoption program with the People's Republic of China (PRC) in 1993. The program has taken time to establish and a number of issues have had to be resolved. One of the major issues was the need for PRC to have their adoptions automatically recognised by the receiving country. This occurred when the *Family Law Act 1975* was amended to allow the making of the *Family Law (Bilateral Arrangements - Intercountry Adoption) Regulations* in 1998.

The intercountry adoption program between Australia and the PRC was finalised on 28 December 1999. It was done through the exchange of diplomatic letters between the Ministry of Civil Affairs and the Australian Embassy in Beijing on behalf of the State and Territory Community Services Ministers. This was a cooperative effort between state and territory governments, the Commonwealth Attorney General's Department, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs.

Individual applications and case management are the responsibility of each state and territory. The Victorian Department of Human Services has the lead role in coordinating this program and in negotiating with the Chinese Centre for Adoption Affairs on behalf of all Australian States. Most of the information provided in this guide is the product of negotiations conducted by the Victorian Department of Human Services and CCAA.

The PRC will only work with government or licensed adoption agencies. They will not work with individual applicants or agencies that are not licensed or accredited by their government. In September 1999, the China Centre for Adoption Affairs (CCAA) said that they only wished to work with one adoption program per state or territory. All documents submitted to the CCAA must come from the government agency.

## **CHINA CENTRE FOR ADOPTION AFFAIRS (CCAA)**

CCAA is the central authority responsible for the official adoption agreement between China and Australia. Part of this agreement is that the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) will use the services of the China Women's Travel Service (CWTS). CWTS provides guides to assist with the adoption when you are in China, arranges travel and accommodation. The use of this service is to ensure that the process runs smoothly and efficiently and that applicants receive the support they require.

China Centre for Adoption Affairs (CCAA) is responsible for :

- receiving and reviewing applications and certifying documents of foreigners coming to China for adopting children.
- certifying documents of the persons placing children for adoption and that of the adoptees

- matching of adoptees and foreign adopters who have met the provisions of the ‘Adoption Law of the People’s Republic of China’
- issuing ‘Notice of coming to China for adoption’ and ‘Notice of consent to the placement for adoption’
- following up, and receiving reports on the life and growth of the adopted Chinese children in foreign countries
- taking care of archive materials of the parties involved in the foreign adoptive relationship (includes the various certifying original documents of foreign adopters, the Chinese persons placing out children for adoption and that of the adoptees, as well as the materials concerning the life and the growth of the adopted Chinese children in foreign countries)
- carrying out liaison, counselling, co-ordination and service for foreign related adoption
- handling any other matters concerning the foreign adoption work.

### **CHINA’S WOMEN TRAVEL SERVICE (CWTS)**

Part of the agreement with China is that adoptive parents, whilst they are in China, will be required to use the services of CWTS. This condition has been stipulated by CCAA, on the basis of which China is willing to place children with Australian applicants.

CWTS is the agency that will assist you with the adoption formalities. This is the only agency able to assist you with matters relating to the adoption process. They provide a guide who will translate for you and who will also assist with any unforeseen difficulties that may arise. CWTS has been contracted to provide this support service to ensure the process functions smoothly. CWTS will also arrange your accommodation and domestic flights within China. Your Program Manager will liaise with CWTS on your behalf.

### **TRANSLATION SERVICE -THE BRIDGE OF LOVE ADOPTION SERVICE (BLAS)**

The Bridge of Love Adoption Service is a non-profit organisation under the administration of the CCAA. BLAS translates all documents exchanged between the adoption agency and CCAA for the purpose of the adoption process (excluding the Notice to Travel). A fee for service is to be paid and the costs are outlined in this guide (see section 2.2).

## CHAPTER ONE

### CRITERIA

#### 1.1 WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S CRITERIA FOR ADOPTION

Applicants interested in adopting a child from an overseas country must in the first instance meet all the requirements of the Western Australian Adoption Act 1994. In Western Australia, the adoption of a child from China can only be arranged by the Department for Community Development, Adoption Service. Please note: the WA criteria are in addition to the criteria set by China.

1. The Adoption Act 1994 – criteria for adoption applicant(s)
  - be 18 or more years of age;
  - be a resident or domiciled in Western Australia;
  - be single, married or in a defacto relationship; applicants who are part of a marriage or defacto relationship must apply jointly
  - if applying jointly, evidence is required to show that you have been continuously in a relationship (married, or defacto or a combination of both) for at least three years, (and cannot be married or in a defacto relationship to any other person);
  - if applying as a single applicant, must be an Australian citizen; if applying jointly, both applicants are Australian citizens, or one of the applicants is an Australian citizen and the other is a citizen of a country which gives the same rights to adopted persons as non-adopted persons in relation to entry into, residence, education and medical care in that country. *[Section 38 & Section 39]*
  
2. To be considered 'suitable to adopt', each applicant must show that he / she:
  - is physically and mentally able to care for and support a child until the child attains 18 years of age;
  - is of good repute;
  - if applying jointly, has a stable marriage or defacto relationship with the other applicant;
  - shows a desire and ability to provide a suitable family environment for the child;
  - has not been found guilty:-
    - (i) in the 5 years before the date of assessment, of an offence punishable at the time of the finding by imprisonment,
    - (ii) at any time, of an offence punishable at the time of the finding by life imprisonment, strict security life imprisonment or life imprisonment for 20 years or more, or
    - (iii) at any time, of an offence involving an assault or sexual offence against a child (committed when the applicant was 18 or more years of age)*[Section 40]*

The Adoption Applications Committee will have access to the assessment report and any other relevant information in determining whether or not applicant(s) are suitable for adoptive parenthood. *[Section 13]*

3. When a child is considered for placement, the prospective adoptive parent(s) must meet the following requirements:
- Applicants must be approved as a suitable to adoptive, by the AAC
  - The placement must meet, as far as is practicable, the wishes of the birth parents
  - In the case of a first adoption, the younger applicant is to be no more than 45 years older than the child to be placed and the older applicant no more than 50 years older than the age of the child
  - In the case of a second or subsequent adoption, the younger applicant is to be no more than 50 years older than the child to be placed and the older applicant no more than 55 years older than the age of the child
  - In the case of a single person application, the person must be no more than 45 years older than the age of the first child to be placed and no more older than 50 years older in age to that of the second or subsequent child
  - In the case of joint applications, the couple must continue to be in a stable marriage or defacto relationship; In the case of a single applicant, they must continue to be single
  - The placement must, if relevant, meet the child's wishes;
  - The applicant(s) must recognise the value of, and need for, cultural and ethnic continuity for the child
  - The applicant(s) must shows a desire and ability to continue the child's established cultural, ethnic, religious or educational arrangements
  - Female applicants must not be pregnant at the time of placement (evidence required);
  - Applicants must not be undertaking treatment for fertility (evidence required);
  - The conditions of the applicants'('s) CCAA approval must be consistent with the needs and circumstances of the allocated child
  - Applicants can only be considered for the adoption of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander (ATSI) child in accordance with the ATSI Placement for Adoption Principle, in [Schedule 2A](#), if this is consistent with the parent's wishes
  - Applicants must have finalised the adoption of any other adopted child in the family
  - Where there are other children in the adoptive home then:-
    - (1) the adoptee is to be the youngest in the adoptive family,
    - (2) the youngest child in the family must be 12 or more months older than the adoptee,
    - (3) each of the children needs to have been in the family for at least 2 years.

Please note that the age differential is different for second and subsequent adoptions.

This summary is a guide. The *Adoption Act 1994* and *Adoption Regulations 1995* contain all the criteria. If you have any questions about the three stages please contact Adoption Service, 9222 2555.



## 1.2 CHINA'S CRITERIA FOR ADOPTION

Applicant(s) must meet the requirements of the Western Australian Adoption Act to adopt a child. To adopt a child from China, applicants must also meet the requirements of the China Adoption Criteria, as defined by the CCAA.

See also the PRC adoption website: [www.china-ccaa.org](http://www.china-ccaa.org)

**Please note: China has recently announced significant changes to their adoption criteria. The new criteria have been scanned into this guide and are produced below.**

**Please be aware that the format of the document below is as it was scanned from the Chinese authorities. The format and content will be replaced once further communication is received from China**

**China is yet to provide clarification on some of these criteria. These will be included in this guide as they come to hand.**

*The CCAA first accepts and reviews adoption applications of foreign adopters who are qualified with the following conditions from the day of 1<sup>st</sup> May 2007, and then makes placement of adoptees with them. Adoption applications of the other adopters who are not qualified will be put into consideration after all the cases of the qualified have already been dealt with.*

*I . The adopters are a couple of one male and one female with a stable marital relationship. In case that both the husband and wife do not have any ex-marriage, the length of marriage has to reach two years. In case that either the husband or wife has ex:'maniages (not more than 2), the length of the current marriage has to reach 5 years.*

*II. Both the husband and wife have reached the age of 30 years and are under 50.*

*For adoption of special needs child, both of them should have reached the age of 30 and are under 55.*

*III. Both the husband and wife are fully healthy physically and mentally, and do not have the following conditions:*

*1.AIDS;*

*2.mental handicap;*

*3.infectious disease within infective stage;*

*4.binocular blind or binocular parallax or monocular blind and with no ocular prosthesis;*

*5.binaural hearing loss or language function loss; adoption of special needs children*

who have identical conditions will be exempt from this limitation;

6. a function or dysfunction of limbs or trunk: caused by impairment, incompleteness, numbness or deformation; severe facial deformation;

7. severe diseases which requires long term treatment and which affect life expectancy, like malignant tumor, lupus erythematosus, nephrosis, epilepsy, and etc.;

8. post-surgery of major organs transplantation, not yet 10 years;

9. schizophrenia; .

10. medication for severe mental disorders, like depression, mania, or anxiety neurosis, and etc, stopped not more than 2 years;

11. BM<sub>i</sub> (BMI=weight (kg)/ height<sup>2</sup> (m) ~ 40.

IV. Either the husband or wife holds a stable occupation. The family annual income reaches \$10,000 for each family member, including the prospective adoptee and the family net assets value should reach \$80,000.

The family annual income does not include welfare income, like relief fund, pension, unemployment insurance, or government subsidy, and etc.

V. Both the husband and wife have received education of or above the level of senior high school, or vocational skills training of the same level.

VI. The number of children in family under the age of 18 years does not reach 5, and the youngest one should have reached the age of 1 year.

Adoption of special needs children will be exempt from the limitation of "the number of children in family under the age of 18 years does not reach 5".

VII. Both the husband and wife have never come under any criminal sanction. And they behave honourably with good moral characters, and abide by regulations and laws. Both of them do not accord with the following situations:

1. have a history of domestic violence, sex abuse, abandonment or abuse of children (even if they are not consequently arrested or criminated);

2. have a history of taking narcotics like opium, morphine, marijuana, cocaine, heroin, methamphetamine, and etc, and medication for mental diseases, which are able to arouse addiction among human beings;

3. have a history of alcohol abuse and have given up drinking not more than 10 years ago.

Adoption application will be given consideration on a case by case basis when either the husband or the wife has less than 3 criminal records of slight severity with no severe outcomes, and the time for correction of wrong has reached 10 years, or has less than 5 records of traffic law violation with no severe outcomes ..

VIII. The adopters are able to have a correct cognition of adoption, and expect to provide a warm family for the orphaned children (or children with handicap and disability) via adoption and to meet the needs of the children adopted for the sake of a good development of them. They have a correct cognition of inter-country adoption as well, and are fully mentally-prepared for the potential risks within inter-country

*adoption and for the situations of children adopted as potential diseases, developmental delay, post-placement maladjustment, and etc.*

*IX. The adopters make in the adoption application letter clear promises of being able to accept post-placement follow-ups and offer post-placement reports as required.*

*X. The fixed number of year or age that appears in this letter shall be dated from the day when the adoption application documents are logged in at the CCAA.*

*The CCAA expects sincerely to cooperate with you and to provide better services for the adopters and children adopted and to help the Chinese children adopted develop in a family full of happiness, love and understanding. Thank you very much for your understanding and assistance .*

**Please be aware that on some of these new criteria Australia is still requiring further clarification from China. Please contact the Program Manager or Information Officer if you are unclear about how the criteria affect you**

Marital Status	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicants must have been married for at least 2 years, in case of a first marriage. In case of a second marriage by either partner, applicants must have been married for at least 5 years.</li> <li>• De-facto relationships not accepted.</li> <li>• China no longer accepts single applicants.</li> </ul>
Age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The husband and the wife must both be 30 years or more and under 50 years of age of age at time of lodgement of their application in China.</li> </ul>
Children	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• China no longer has a demand for adoptive placements for healthy children over the age of 2 years (24 months) and under the age of 6 years. China will not accept Homestudies for people eligible <u>only</u> to adopt children aged 2-6 years of age.</li> </ul> <p><i>Western Australian adoption legislation regarding the maximum age difference between adoptive parents and a child is discussed in Chapter 1.13. Please refer to this chapter and consider allocation and wait times to note if the legislation will impact on your ability to adopt a child aged more than two years. Please contact the Program Manager if you require assistance with this.</i></p>
Religion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Application by people of Jehovah’s Witnesses are not accepted.</li> </ul>
Special Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If you are interested in applying to adopt a child with special needs, and you feel that you have a strong skill base to do so, please contact the Program Manager or Intercountry Team Leader to discuss. CCAA accepts applications for children with special needs for applicants aged 30 and over and under 55 years of age. (Other criteria apply)</li> </ul>

### 1.3 CHILDREN REQUIRING AN ADOPTIVE PLACEMENT

The following terms are used by CCAA in relation to children and are defined as follows:

**Child** - according to the Adoption Law of the PRC, the child being considered for adoption refers to a minor who is less than 14 years of age.

**Abandoned child** - according to the Adoption Law of the PRC the abandoned infants, or children whose parents cannot be ascertained or found, is defined as infants and children abandoned by their biological parents or whose biological parents cannot be ascertained or found. The Chinese authorities are required to take several steps to confirm that a child has been abandoned, including advertising for birth parents, for at least a period of 2 months before proceeding to place a child for adoption. Consequently, infants are generally aged between 8 and 15 months before they are able to be offered for allocation. Most children are cared for within Social Welfare Institutions during this time however some are placed with foster carers.

**Orphan** – children bereaved of parents are defined as children whose parents are dead or announced dead by the people’s court

**Children in unusual circumstances** – where that the biological parents cannot rear their children because the parents are disabled or suffering from serious illness or whose life is extremely difficult caused by other elements.

**Applicants of Chinese origin** are able to request that their file be expedited to be allocated with a child more quickly.

**Child with special needs** - Although not formally defined in the Chinese legislation, a child with special needs is a child who is handicapped or has significant medical problems. Children with disabilities are not often placed with Australian families.

**Siblings or twins** - while there is sometimes a need for a placement for twins or siblings, this is extremely rare. The approval for twins or siblings should be clearly stated in the Homestudy and AAC approval.

## The Children

### Gender Imbalance

As has been previously mentioned the majority of Chinese children for whom intercountry adoption placements are sought are girls, and there are a range social cultural and political reasons for this. There have however been a small number of healthy male children offered to Australian and Western Australian families for adoption.

### History

Most children placed for adoption have been abandoned; consequently, nothing is known about these children’s social, health and genetic background prior to the time that they are found and placed in the care of the local Social Welfare Institute. The quality of care children have received in China ranges from very bad institutional care to foster care. The great majority of children will have suffered social, emotional and psychological deprivation. It is important to remember that a number of these children will have experienced major pre and post natal challenges that could have long lasting effects on their later development and this will impact on the parenting of these children.

## **Attachment**

Children from China who require an adoptive placement may have experienced harsh institutional care with minimal interpersonal interaction or stimulation. It is known that this may have lasting damaging effects on children. A good understanding of the theories of Attachment, Attachment disorder and related brain development is imperative for any person entering into adoptive parenting.

Some preliminary information concerning attachment issues is provided in the Education Seminars; however it is strongly recommended that you explore this area further, so that you are prepared to recognise signs of secure and insecure attachment, and to foster secure attachment within your play and day to day care routine. <http://attach-china.org> This website discusses some of the experiences adoptive parents have had with children from China and also provides some good references for further reading.

## **Culture**

China has a population of 1.3 billion people. The population is comprised of 56 ethnic groups, the vast majority of whom are Han Chinese (92%). The populations of provinces and regions vary significantly and it is interesting to study the history of population movement within China over the course of history and to gain an understanding of the richness of culture this has created. Many of the ethnic minority communities have maintained their own traditions and customs and may have different dialects, writing, dress, food, religion and certainly a different history, to the Han Chinese. When you are allocated a child by CCAA, it is a good idea to undertake some research on the population of the province from whence your child comes. With this knowledge you will be able to work toward providing strong and appropriate cultural continuity for your child and the healthy development of your multicultural family. A couple of good websites to begin this exploration are:

- <http://www.c-c-c.org/chineseculture/minority/minority.html>
- <http://www.index-china.com/minority/minority-english.htm>

## **Cultural Continuity**

Having a good understanding of the importance of cultural continuity for your child is critically important. Although we live in a multi-cultural community where there are many people who have come to Western Australia from other countries, the experience of children adopted from other countries into trans-cultural placements is unique. These children have gained a loving family from another culture and another country; however they have lost a great deal too. Many children who have been adopted through intercountry programs have developed into adolescents and adults who struggle with their identity. These children benefit from receiving age appropriate explanations about their adoption and a 'living' knowledge and understanding of their culture of origin:

- the language, the food, the customs, the dress
- the religion, the festivals, the folk stories, the songs, the art
- the experience of being part of the community of their culture of origin
- the experience of regular travel to their country of origin
- the experience of having an adoptive family who actively values and enjoys their multiculturalism.

Cultural continuity is best fostered in a family that embraces the adopted child and the child's culture of origin. This is to avoid these children growing up with a sense that they are the product of an inferior culture from which they needed to be saved. It is important that these children are encouraged to develop a strong sense of pride in their culture of origin, which in turn fosters a stronger sense of personal identity and positive self worth.

Research and consideration about how you might prepare to become a multicultural family as well as how you might manage some of the issues that this may present can at times be confronting, but it is invaluable should you choose to pursue intercountry adoption.

**The right to privacy**

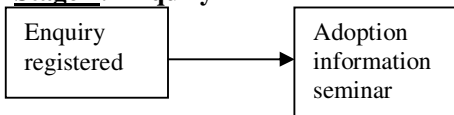
Adopting a child is an amazing and wonderful experience for any parent. It is a life changing event to be cherished and celebrated.

The adoption process is momentous and the highs are met by the lows. Sharing information and support within the adoption community can be invaluable in navigating the experience and is absolutely encouraged by Adoption Service. However, when sharing information about your prospective adopted child, their personal history, their first days and weeks in your care, and how you and they experience the journey of bonding and attachment over further months and years, be mindful of your child’s right to privacy. Always give sensitive consideration to the long term implications of widely publishing and broad-casting your child’s most personal and private information.

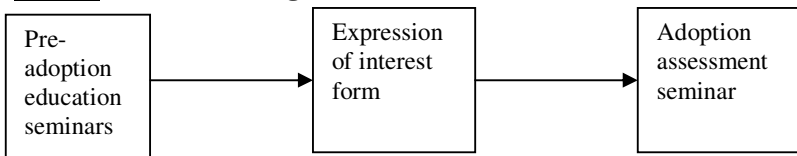
**FLOWCHART**

**PROCEDURE FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION**

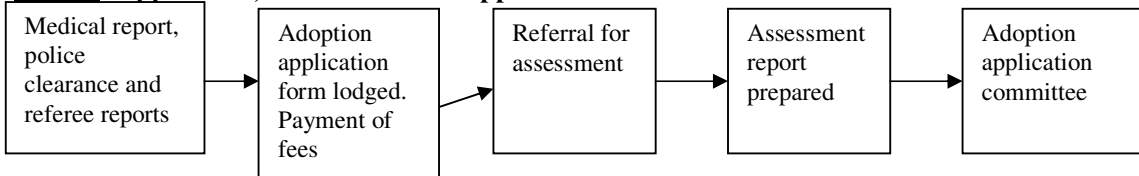
**Stage 1: Enquiry**



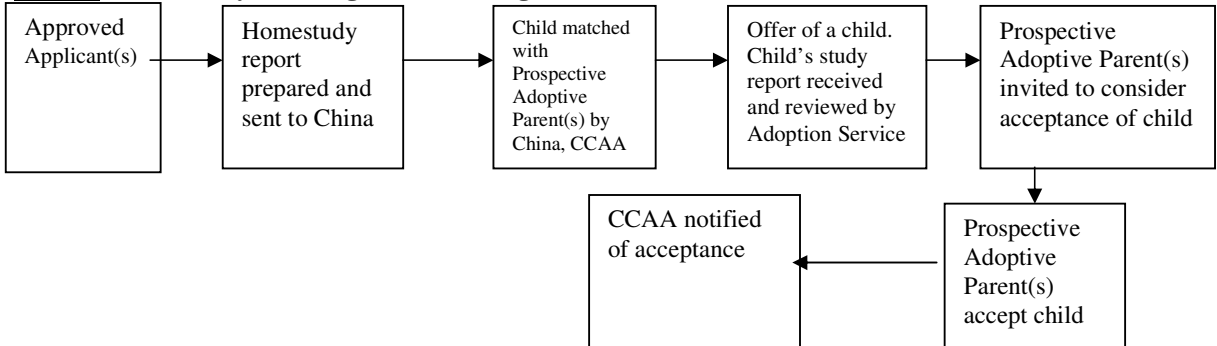
**Stage 2: Education Program**



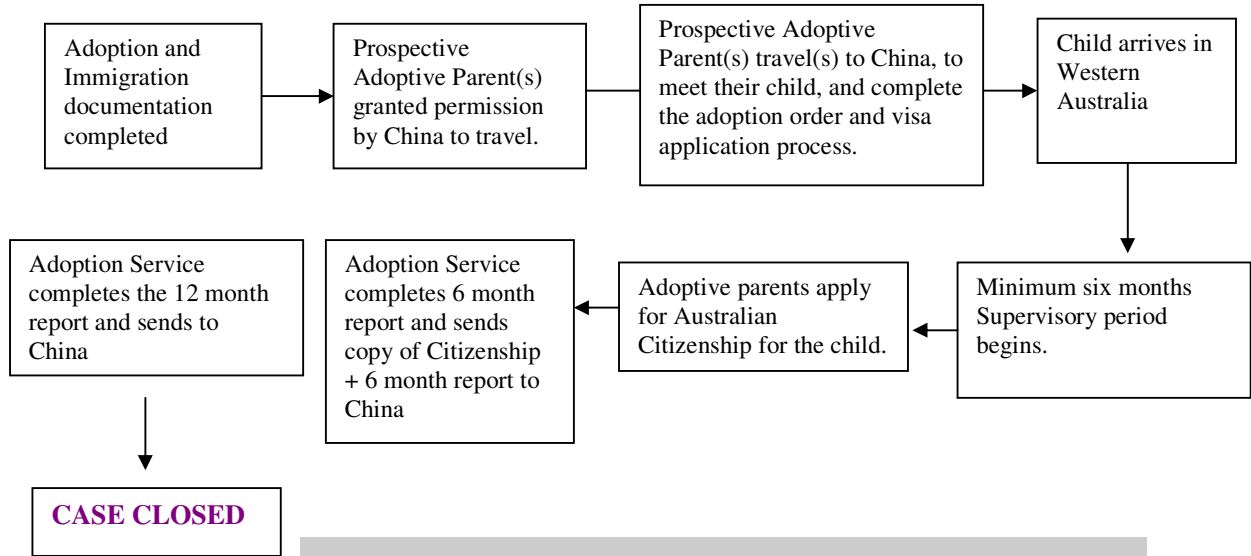
**Stage 3: Application, Assessment and Approval**



**Stage 4: Homestudy, Waiting and Matching**



**Stage 5: Pre Travel, China and Supervision**



**CHAPTER TWO**  
**APPLICATION PROCESS**

**2.1 SUMMARY OF STAGES AND DOCUMENTS**

**Inquiry, Education Program and Application, Assessment and Approval**

To begin the adoption application process applicants must contact Adoption Service and request an information package and reservation for the Adoption Information Seminar. The information you are provided with will assist you to decide whether adoption is right for you and if so, how you must then proceed.

The following document, ‘*Adoption Procedure Checklist*’, is used by the Adoption Service Information Officer and details each of the process steps through the Stages of:

- **Inquiry**
- **Education Program**
- **Application, Assessment and Approval.**

**ADOPTION PROCEDURE CHECKLIST**

**2.2**

**Stage 1 Enquiry**

DATE:

1. Initial telephone enquiry made. -----
2. **Adoption Enquiries Information** package received. -----

3. Participate in Adoption Information Seminar. -----

**Stage 2 Education Program**

4. Attended the required education seminars, approved by the Department and conducted by the non-government organisations: Adoption Research and Counselling Service (ARCS) and Adoption Support for Families and Children (ASFC).

<b>Preparation for Adoptive Parenting</b>	Date attended: -----
<b>Separation &amp; Attachment</b>	Date attended: -----
<b>Intercountry Adoption</b>	Date attended: -----
<b>Adopting Again (for a subsequent adoption application)</b>	Date attended: -----

**Notification of your participation in the pre-adoption workshops is provided to Adoption Service by the program organisers and your adoption records are noted accordingly. However, you should also keep a note of the dates for your own records and ensure you include the information on your *Application to be Assessed for Suitability for Adoptive Parenthood - Expression of Interest Form*.**

**Stage 3 Application, Assessment and Approval**

5. Expression of Interest Form and Consent to Data Base Check sent into Adoption Service. -----

**The Expression of Interest Form has to be forwarded to Adoption Service within 12 weeks of you attending the last relevant education seminar and must show the dates you attended each session. You must also ensure you also attach your signed Consent to a Data Base Check.**

6. Acknowledgment of receipt of Expression of Interest Form by Adoption Service. -----

7. Currently, applicants are invited by Adoption Service to proceed upon receipt of the Expression of Interest Form and are advised of the Adoption Assessment Seminar dates. **(applicants adopting a subsequent time may not need to attend).** -----

8. Attendance at Assessment Seminar and receive Assessment Package. -----

9. Return Adoption Information Sheet (FCS 32) which includes referees, Consent for Criminal Record Check (Police Clearance), Medical Examination Report (all forms are included in the Assessment Package). -----

10. Return other forms as requested; copy of Marriage Certificate, proof of length of relationship if not married for three years, copy of Birth Certificates, copy of Citizenship and any other document/s as advised by the Department. -----

11. Notification regarding outcome of medical, police clearance and referee reports received. -----

12. Registration fee (\$750AUD), and assessment fee (\$986AUD for intercountry applicants only) forwarded to Adoption Service and payable prior to commencement of your assessment interviews. -----

13. Letter of acknowledgment sent regarding receipt of your registration fee and, if applicable, assessment fee. -----

14. Notification that your file has been referred for the commencement of your assessment interviews and that you have been allocated an Assessor and an Adoption Social Worker. -----

15. Contacted by assessor to arrange appointments for assessment interviews – minimum of 6 interviews of approximately 2 to 3 hours in your home. Generally held during working hours.  
The assessment process generally takes at least two months to complete. -----



16. Completed assessment report is viewed by you, returned to Adoption Service and referred to the Adoption Applications Committee (AAC). -----
17. Notification two weeks after the AAC meeting regarding formal approval/non approval of your assessment. -----

**NOTE:**

During the application and assessment stage, medical and police clearances must be updated every 12 months.

However, upon being found suitable to adopt by the AAC, assessments and police and medical clearances will be updated every 2 years from the approval date.

Depending upon the length of time that may occur in the wait for an offer of a child it may be necessary to update your assessment and clearances a number of times. The inconvenience and costs involved is regretted but is unavoidable should you wish to maintain your approved status as required under the Adoption Act 1994.

Following approval by the Adoption Applications Committee the process between Local and Intercountry differs.

**China Adoption Process**

**The following table provides a brief overview of the adoption process from the point of preparing your Homestudy, to returning to Western Australia with you adopted child. Before applicants are able to proceed to the stage of Homestudy preparation, their application to adopt must have been approved by the AAC.**

	<b>Process</b>	<b>Cost</b> Subject to change
Information Officer	Collates Homestudy documents (assessment report, police, medicals etc.)	Nil
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)	Provides various photos, notarised and certified documents etc and returns them to the information officer (for list of people able to certify, see Glossary)	Nil
Information Officer	Checks and completes Homestudy and sends to Dept of Foreign Affairs & Trade to bind document and confirm signatures of Notary Public. Submits Homestudy to Chinese Embassy for Certification	Department of Foreign Affairs Authentication Approx \$40AUD Certification of Homestudy \$300AUD
Information Officer	Sends Homestudy to China by Courier.	Courier fees approx \$55. Application fee for CCAA is US\$410 Translation fee US\$200
Program Manager	Follows up progress of case.  When an allocation is made, the Program Manager conducts a Departmental case review of the allocated child and the Prospective Adoptive Parent/s. This is to ensure that Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) is/are eligible to adopt the allocated child. The following issues are reviewed: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Applicant(s) is/are within age criteria</li> </ul>	Nil

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The child falls within the age range of Applicant's/ AAC approval</li> <li>• Applicant(s) able to meet the needs and care of the allocated child, as defined by AAC approval conditions</li> <li>• Applicant's/ medical, police and adoption assessment are all current and up to date (all need to be updated every two years, or applicants will be ineligible for placement of a child)</li> </ul>	
Team Leader	Considers recommendation of Program Manager regarding acceptance of the allocation of the child; Endorses decision	Nil
Adoptions Manager	Reviews the endorsed recommendation of the allocation of the child; Approves decision	Nil
Program Manager	<p>Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) notified of the allocation and a meeting at DCD is arranged for PAP(s) to receive the allocation documents and speak with the Program Manager.</p> <p>PAP's take the allocation paperwork home. All original documents including photographs are provided to the Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) for their consideration. PAPs are encouraged to give consideration to the allocation and to make their decision regarding acceptance.</p> <p>( In cases where a health concern or other significant issue has been identified, you will be provided with relevant parts of the information for you to consider and research, prior to making a decision if you feel able to provide for the needs of the child.)</p>	Nil
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)	<p>Contact the Case Manager to advise of acceptance/non-acceptance of the allocation and to arrange an appointment to discuss and provide the required paperwork.</p> <p>Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) attend an appointment at DCD with Program Manager.</p> <p>If the decision is not to accept the allocation, all paperwork concerning the allocated child must be returned to Adoption service at the meeting.</p> <p>If the decision is to accept the allocation, the acceptance paperwork is given to the Program Manager at the meeting.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Immigration paperwork: You will need to pay Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs for the entry visa of the child. Return the completed Immigration paperwork and receipt of payment for the child's Visa to the Programme Manager.</li> </ul> <p>(NB – The Adoption paperwork and Immigration paperwork can be returned in one visit, or a second appointment can be arranged)</p>	<p>DIMA fee is \$1340AUD</p> <p>Courier fees approx \$55AUD</p>

	You will also be required to provide a statement confirming that you are not currently, or prior to travel, undertaking IVF. (Sect. 40 Adoption Act)	
Program Manager	Couriers acceptance papers and immigration forms to China.	
CCAA	When CCAA are ready for the adoption process to begin, the <i>Notice of Coming to China</i> is forwarded to Adoption Services, inviting PAPs to travel to China for the purpose of the adoption. (Generally received from China 3 to 8 weeks after acceptance of the child's allocation.)	Nil
Program Manager	Notifies Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) of the arrival of the 'Notice of Coming to China' (also known as Notice to Travel or NTT) and arranges for the applicant to collect the NTT and other DCD paperwork.	
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)	Collect NTT and travel letters from Adoption Service  Provide Program Manager with tentative travel dates (There is a <i>Minimum</i> travel wait of 14 days from receipt of NTT, as requested by CCAA and CWTS)  Apply for an entry Visa for China at the Chinese Consulate.	China Visa costs \$40AUD per person Return air fares x 2 and one way child approx \$3350 AUD
Program Manager	Liaise with CWTS re PAP's/' preferred travel dates and adoption itinerary, and confirm the dates with PAPs  Arrange internal travel requirements with CWTS (plus accommodation and other services as per PAP's/' request)  Confirm full China itinerary with CWTS and PAP(s)  Communicate CWTS's fees to PAP(s).	
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)	Once the Programme manager has confirmed CWTS availability for the Adoption, confirm tentative travel plans with travel agent/airline  Transfer fees into CWTS bank account prior to travelling to China.	Accommodation, guide costs & internal travel, US\$3000 upwards per couple
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)	As per Western Australian Legislation, Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) are required to provide evidence that they are not pregnant at the time of placement (1 week prior to travel).	Doctors fee
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s)	Travel to China and to the Provincial Capital. (You are able to request airport transfer services with CWTS arranged through Program Manager)	
CWTS Guide	Your guide will make contact with you to arrange a meeting time to transport you to the Provincial Civil Affairs Bureau Office to meet your child and begin the	Nil

	adoption formalities	
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) and CWTS Guide	The child will be brought to meet you at the Provincial Civil Affairs Bureau (CAB) (or, on occasion at your Hotel). You will register your intention to adopt the child at this meeting. An adoption agreement between the orphanage and the family will be required. You will be asked to make a donation (a fee) to the orphanage. Please ask for a receipt.	Fee for advert child's abandonment is approx US\$55 Donation = US\$3000 - 3500 Payment to CAB US\$100-\$200 Photo US\$40 Total Approx. US\$3300-\$3800.  <b>All fees in cash</b>
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) and CWTS Guide	Visit a provincial notary to formalise the adoption with your child and the director of the orphanage.  The notarised adoption documents (child's birth certificate, abandonment certification, medical/developmental report and adoption decrees) are generally ready for collection in two to three days.	Notarisation = US\$350–US\$600
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) and CWTS Guide	You will obtain a Chinese passport (this is already arranged for you) and exit permit through the local Provincial Public Security Bureau. It will take about three to five days from completing the Adoption Agreement until these documents are available for collection. Check accuracy of documents!  Travel with your child to Shanghai. If you have arranged airport transfers, your CWTS will transport you to the Provincial airport, and a CWTS guide will meet you at the airport in Shanghai and take you to your hotel.	Passport fee approx US\$100–US\$200
Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) and CWTS Guide	Undertake an Australian Migration Health Check for your child in Shanghai  Translation of visa application  Obtain child's entry visa from the Australian Consulate in Shanghai (3-4 days minimum)  Return to Western Australia with your adopted child.	US\$100 – US\$150  Approx US\$12 per page
Program Manager  Adoptive Parents	Program Manager will meet with you and your adopted child at your home within 72 hours of your return to WA  Supply copies of child's adoption order and other paperwork and passport and arrange appointment for the next home visit.	Nil
Program	Visit family a minimum of six times in the first six months	Nil

Manager	<p>to provide support, to ensure the child is settling well and to enable the preparation of China's first report.</p> <p>Undertake at least one visit in the second six months to prepare the second (12<sup>th</sup> month) report required by China.</p>	
Adoptive Parent(s)	<p>Apply for child's Australian citizenship through DIMA as soon as possible following your return from China</p> <p>Supply Program Manager with a copy of the child's citizenship and photos of child and family, to be sent to CCAA with the 6 month supervision report.</p> <p>CCAA expects ongoing supervision of the placement until they receive the Child's Citizenship document.</p>	At cost of applicant

### 2.3 SUMMARY OF COSTS

(Approximate costs. Subject to change.)

Education seminars	\$630AUD per couple approx
Police clearance	\$60AUD
Medical	varies
Application	\$750AUD
Assessment	\$1,000AUD
Department of Foreign Affairs	\$40AUD
Certification of Homestudy	\$300AUD
CCAA application fee with Homestudy	US\$410
Translation fee with Homestudy	US\$200
Courier of Homestudy	\$55AUD approx
Translation of child study	\$250AUD
Courier acceptance documents	\$150AUD
Immigration fees (Sponsorship)	\$1305AUD
Visa application fees	\$80AUD per couple
Air fares (two adult return, one child one way)	\$3350AUD
Accommodation and guide in China	from US\$3500 At least US\$400 more if adopting from Guangdong
Travel expenses (food, transport, spending money)	\$1000AUD
Bank Transfer fees (CWTS payment)	varies
Medical report (pregnancy test)	varies
Advertising child's abandonment	US\$55
Donation to orphanage	US\$3,000-3500
Civil Affairs Bureau	US\$200
Photo at Civil Affairs Bureau	US\$40
Notarisation to formalise adoption in China	US\$600
Child's passport	US\$200
Child's visa	US\$150
Translation of child's visa	US\$12 per page
Translation of two placement reports	US\$60
Courier of two placements reports	\$100AUD
Child's citizenship	varies
<b>Total</b>	<b>approx \$23,000 upwards</b>

## CHAPTER THREE

### HOMESTUDY

Once an application to adopt has been approved by the AAC, the Information Officer will assist Prospective Adoptive Parents to complete their Homestudy document to be sent to China. The Homestudy is a package of documents that together form your application to CCAA to adopt a child. Each country determines their own Homestudy requirements, so the China Homestudy will look different to the Homestudies of other countries and will follow a different process.

The Information Officer will forward to you a congratulatory letter detailing the China Homestudy requirements. Should you have any questions or queries about the preparation of your Homestudy you are invited to contact the Information Officer or Program Manager to seek clarification. E-mail is an efficient way of getting in touch with the Information Officer or Program Manager.

This chapter provides a guide to the information requested by China for a Homestudy. Please note that the requirements are subject to change and that you will receive the most up to date information available from the Information Officer following your AAC approval.

#### 3.1 HOMESTUDY DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

The Homestudy documents are supporting documents provided by yourself and Adoption Service to confirm that you are approved by Adoption Service as suitable to adopt. It will also include your assessment report and the following documents. The following documents highlighted \* will need to be notarised. Please speak to the Information Officer about the availability of Notaries, as this may be arranged for you through Adoption Service at no cost.

#### Applicants of Chinese Ethnicity

The China Centre for Adoption Affairs have indicated that applicants of Chinese ethnicity are able to request expediting of their adoption process. The applicants will qualify if they/ their parent/s, their grandparents were born in China, or if they live as a Chinese of Chinese descent. Please provide evidence of this to accompany the request to CCAA.

#### 1. \*Adoption Application Letter

Applicant(s) should type a personal letter (not more than one page) addressed to The Executive Director, Mr Lu Ying, China Centre for Adoption Affairs, Ministry for Civil Affairs,

Sunlight International Plaza, No.16 Wang Jia Yuan Lane,  
Dong Cheng District, BEIJING 100027  
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

The contents of the letter should include:

- ✓ Name, date of birth, place of birth and nationality of applicant/s
- ✓ Reason for adoption

- ✓ A statement of intent to adopt a Chinese child. This is where you may ask for a gender and age preference. However this needs to be in line with your AAC assessment approval and the Western Australian placement criteria.
  - ✓ The applicant(s) should promise not to abandon or abuse the adopted child, promise that the adopted child will enjoy the same rights as their own biological children, if applicable, and promise to raise and educate the adopted child to grow healthily.
  - ✓ The adoption applicant(s) should promise that they will ensure that the child maintains links with the Chinese culture and grow up with a sense of pride in his/her culture of origin.
  - ✓ The adoption applicant(s) should each sign the application letter.
2. **\*Original Birth Certificate (blue copy)**  
 Originals can be obtained by contacting 'Births, Deaths and Marriages'. If original documents are difficult to obtain, i.e.: if you were born in another country, please provide a certified copy of the original plus a statutory declaration indicating that it is difficult to obtain an original birth certificate from the country of birth. Please keep in mind that you will need another certified copy of your birth certificate when you travel, so it might be a good idea to get this done at the same time!  
 If you have children (birth, adopted or step), living with you, you must also send an original birth certificate for them.
3. **\*Original Marriage Certificate (blue Copy) or an Original 'No record of Marriage Result Certificate' and a statutory declaration stating that he/she is not married for a single applicant.**  
 Original certificates can be obtained by contacting 'Births, Deaths and Marriages'. If original documents are difficult to obtain, please provide a certified copy of the original plus a statutory declaration indicating that it is difficult to obtain an original certificate. Please keep in mind that you will need a certified copy when you travel, so it might be a good idea to get this done at the same time.
4. **\*Divorce decree** (if applicable)  
 Applicants who are divorced must submit their original divorce decree. If you have remarried after the death of your first spouse, a copy of the death certificate of your deceased spouse is required.
5. **\*Statement** (if applicable)  
 If you are a single applicant, you must submit a statement attesting to single status and confirming that you are not homosexual.
6. **\*Police Clearance Certificate** (one per applicant)  
 CCAA require that a police clearance be signed by a Police Officer and be on the official police letterhead. You will need to go to a police station to arrange for this. **Police clearances should be less than 6 months old at the time the file is being presented for authentication.** The police clearance, which the Department previously received for your Adoption assessment report, does not meet China's requirements. Police clearances must be obtained for all adults living in the house hold.
7. **\*Certificate of Profession** (one per applicant).  
 The certificate/letter from your employer must include the applicant's position, length of time employed and annual salary denominated in his/her country's currency. If the applicant is self-employed or is the employer, a certificate of profession and income should be submitted by a certified public accountant.



8. **\*Financial Statement** (Form 1)  
 Provided by Adoption Service. Please type this statement (even if you have to re-format the statement). Form will be given to you by Adoption Service.
9. **\*Statement of Unemployment**
- If an applicant is currently unemployed or not employed, he/she must submit a Statement of Unemployment. This statement should include the applicant's full name and birth date and a brief description of the reason for the unemployed status i.e.; home duties, intention to be a stay at home parent, between jobs etc.
10. **\*Health Examination** (Form 2) (one per applicant)  
 Your doctor must write legibly so that the Chinese authorities can easily read the contents of the report. Illegible writing will be considered null and void. All categories should be completed by the doctor (a tick or a comment is sufficient). If there are any concerns, the relevant tests should be attached. Form will be given to you by Adoption Service.
- Please note that the medical report provided earlier for Adoption Services (as part of your Adoption Assessment) is not acceptable by China. You must use the Chinese Forms. A health certificate is required for every adult in the house hold.
11. **\*Copies of passport.** (one per applicant)  
 Photocopies of each applicant's passport (information pages only) are required to be included as part of the process of authenticating the document by the Chinese consulate.
12. **\*2 Notarisation and Authentication Application forms.** (One for Consulate and one for China).  
 Adoption Service will supply these to you. This is to inform China of your intentions. In these forms, under the headings 'Application item(s):' fill in 'Adoption Documents'. For 'Purpose:' fill in 'To adopt a child (male/female) from China'.
13. **Passport size photographs** (2 per applicant)  
 Two full-faced passport size photographs of each applicant must accompany the application. **(Please note: you will require at least 4 more for Visa Application later in the process)**
14. **Photographs.**  
 Current photos are required, including some full-length frontal shots and some clear close up shots.
- ✓ 2 x Male applicant
  - ✓ 2 x Female applicant
  - ✓ 2 x child/ren (if applicable)
  - ✓ 2 x Applicant(s)/Family
  - ✓ 2 x Family home (including any family pets)
- Please glue these on white A4 size paper with a maximum of two photos on each sheet. Do not staple the sheets together.
15. **\*Agreement to Act as Guardian**  
 Adoption Service will give this form to you. You will need to nominate guardians for the child in the event that you will no longer be able to care for the child. The couple you have nominated are required to sign this form.

16. **Undertaking**

Adoption Service will give this form to you. Please read carefully and sign and return to Adoption Service. (please see Section 3.2 for further information)

The fees paid to CCAA are set by the China Ministry of Finance and paid in accordance with Chinese law. The following fee payments are required and must be in the form of Bank Cheque/Draft.

PLEASE SEE CHECKLIST, SECTION 3.4, FOR CURRENT FEE AMOUNTS.

- 17. Personal Cheque of \$40 AUD for authentication of your Homestudy documents made payable to Collector of Public Monies (Department for Foreign Affairs and Trade).
- 18. Bank Cheque of \$300 AUD for Authentication of Homestudy documents, made payable to Consulate of the People's Republic of China
- 19. Bank cheque/draft of US \$620 for CCAA Homestudy Registration Fee, made payable to China Centre for Adoption Affairs.
- 20. Bank cheque/draft of US\$200 for Document Translation Fee, made payable to BLAS (use this abbreviation on the cheque)
- 21. **Registration and Translation of Documents for Applicants of Chinese Ethnicity for Expediting files** 19. and 20. are combined.  
Bank Cheque of US\$820 made payable to China Centre for Adoption Affairs.

Please arrange an appointment time with the Information Officer to submit all documents to Adoption Service.

### **3.2 UNDERTAKING FOR INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION APPLICANT(S)**

Adoption Service asks all Prospective Adoptive Parents to sign an agreement that all contact with the overseas authority will be made by Adoption Service only, on your behalf. It is also an agreement stating that you will be responsible for all financial costs associated with your adopted child (including courier costs of documents) and that you will not travel to China for the purpose of adoption before receiving approval from Adoption Service.

The purpose of the undertaking is to make sure that the adoption process runs smoothly and that the Western Australian intercountry adoption process complies with international agreements and conventions.

Adoption Service will provide you with the undertaking for your consideration and completion. Please sign this and return it as soon as possible; you will be provided with a copy of the signed undertaking. Your Program Manager will make all enquires to CCAA on your behalf. Your Program Manager will remain in regular contact with you but please feel free to contact your Program Manager if you have any questions or queries.

### 3.3 AUTHENTICATION AND CERTIFICATION

Once all the documents have been submitted to Adoption Service, all the documents marked with (\*) will be forwarded by the Information officer to a Notary Public for notarisation.

Once your Homestudy has been notarised, it will then be authenticated by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Adoption Service will arrange this on your behalf. Your cheque made out to the Officer of Public Monies will be submitted to meet the cost of this service.

The Homestudy will then be taken to the Chinese Consulate in East Perth to be certified. Adoption Service will arrange this on your behalf. Your Bank Cheque made out to the Consulate of the People's Republic of China will be submitted with your Homestudy in payment for the certification service. The Consulate may take up to 7 working days to certify the documents.

After the documents are certified by the Chinese Consulate, the Homestudy is couriered to CCAA on your behalf. You will receive an invoice from the courier company; the company will provide the date of delivery and confirmation that the document has been hand delivered to CCAA.

The CCAA will register the application upon receipt of the Homestudy and may provide confirmation of the registration to Adoption Service; this notification is known as the "Log In" date. Adoption Service frequently does not receive the registration confirmation from CCAA, so consequently this information may not be passed on to applicants.

We understand that the waiting period can be an anxious time for people and that PAPs like the sense of reassurance that the Log In notification provides. Our experience, however, indicates that China's adoption system and processes are very reliable: there has been no history of mishandling or complication with respect to processing of files received by CCAA from Adoption Service irrespective of whether a Log In date has been provided by CCAA.

### 3.4 CHECKLIST

1.  Adoption Application Letter
2.  Birth Certificate x 2
3.  Marriage Certificate/or if single no record of Marriage result and Statutory Declaration
4.  Divorce Decree (if applicable)
5.  Statement of single status (if applicable)
6.  Police Clearance certificate(s)
7.  Certificate(s) of Profession
8.  Financial Statement
9.  Health Examination(s)
10.  Copies of Passport(s)
11.  Notarisation and Authentication form
12.  2 x passport photos of applicant(s)
13.  Individual/family photos
14.  Agreement to Act as Guardian
15.  Signed Placement Conditions/Undertaking form
16.  Money Order - \$40AUD to *Collector of Public Monies* for authentication of Homestudy by DFAT.
17.  Cash or Bank cheque for \$300AUD for certification of documents by Chinese Consulate in Perth made out to *Consulate of the People's Republic of China*
18.  Bank Cheque/draft - US\$620 to *China Centre for Adoption Affairs* for registration of homestudy Document in China.
19.  Bank Cheque/draft - US\$200 to BLAS for translation of Homestudy and Allocation.
20. Applicants of Chinese Ethnicity requesting expediting of adoption process payment 18 and 19 are combined. Bank cheque/draft US\$800 for China Centre for Adoption Affairs. Please also include evidence of your ethnicity.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### MATCHING/OFFER OF A CHILD

Once your Homestudy is couriered to CCAA, it is CCAA's responsibility to match a child to you. All homestudies are screened and reviewed by CCAA on a case by case basis.

#### **Waiting time**

Over the course of the Program's history there has been considerable fluctuation with respect to the waiting period from receipt of Homestudy to time of allocation. The program initially had a waiting time of 18 months, this then came down over time to around 12 months, 9 months, and then 6 months, before more recently moving back out to approximately 18 months.

There is an additional pre-travel waiting time of 3 to 8 weeks *minimum* after the acceptance of the offer of a child before CCAA provide applicants with an invitation to travel.

There is a further waiting time of 2 weeks following the receipt of the invitation to travel from CCAA before applicants are able to travel to China for the purpose of the adoption. This waiting time is defined by CCAA and CWTS. During this 2 week period travel arrangements and the adoption process itinerary needs to be arranged, through the Programme Manager, with CWTS.

#### **4.1 THE ALLOCATION OF A CHILD**

Once Prospective Adoptive Parents are identified by CCAA for a particular child, a child study report for the *particular* child is forwarded to Adoption Service for the *identified* PAP/s. The report will have basic information on the child and will generally include a medical report, a developmental report, and a social history report. Information regarding the child's biological family will be provided if available. At least one photograph of the child is usually included with the report.

As discussed earlier in the guide, due to the political, cultural and economic context in China, the vast majority of children available for Adoption in China have been abandoned. This means that no information concerning prenatal / antenatal care history, social history of the child's biological family or genetic health issues will be available. The report will generally provide brief information as to when and how the child came to be placed with the Social Welfare Institute and their routines and interactions within the Institute.

#### **4.2 CASE REVIEW AND OFFER OF CHILD**

Upon receipt of an allocation the Programme Manager undertakes a Case Review, which the Team Leader and Manager then consider. The purpose of the Case Review is to ensure that the allocation match is in line with the criteria of the Western Australian Adoption Act, 1994.

Once the Case Review has been endorsed, you will receive a phone call from the programme Manager advising you of the offer of a child. You will be invited into the office to meet with your Programme Manager and receive the child's information. You will also be given documentation outlining the acceptance and immigration processes.

If you live in the country, this information can be sent to you and your Program Manager will talk you through the process from there on.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### ACCEPTANCE AND IMMIGRATION PROCESS

#### 5.1 ACCEPTANCE/NON ACCEPTANCE

When you receive the allocation documentation on your child the Program Manager will discuss with you any issues pertinent to your consideration of the allocation. Your Program Manager may recommend that you discuss the information concerning your child with a health professional or other relevant service provider to ensure you are well resourced to make an informed decision.

In some circumstances, you may decide not to accept the particular child matched to you. It is important that you contact your Program Manager as soon as possible if you are considering not accepting the child matched to you by China. Your Program Manager will be available for discussion regarding your decision and has an obligation to inform China of your decision and return the appropriate paperwork to CCAA in a timely manner.

Should you decide to accept the allocation of a child, you will need to provide the formal acceptance paperwork:

- Typed letter of acceptance addressed to Department for Community Development, WA (this will be provided to you by Adoption Service)
- Legible hand-written letter of acceptance addressed to:  
Administration Department of China Centre of Adoption Affairs  
Mr Lu Ying Executive Director  
Sun Light International Plaza  
No. 16 Wang Jia Yuan Lane  
Dong Cheng District, Beijing, 100027  
People's Republic of China.
- Signed "Letter of Seeking Confirmation from Adopter" (Chinese original) (this must have the same date as the handwritten acceptance letter above).
- US\$60 bank cheque made payable to BLAS for the translation of the child study report and medical information.

#### 11.1 IMMIGRATION

The overall process of your child's entry to Australia will be referred to as the 'immigration process' and the legal documentation to be granted is the 'adoption visa'. The Department of Immigration and Multicultural Affairs (DIMA) undertakes the role of assessing and deciding applications for visas in accordance with the requirements of the Migration Regulations. DIMA refers to the migration of a child to Australia as 'sponsorship'.

Please refer to the DIMA website for all current information and the latest forms. If there are any queries, please also contact your Program Manager.

### **5.3 LODGING OF IMMIGRATION SPONSORSHIP APPLICATIONS**

After accepting the allocation of a child, prospective adoptive applicant(s) are required to pay the migration sponsorship application fee to DIMA (see Section 2.2, Summary of costs) for their prospective adopted child.

Prospective adoptive applicant(s) also required to complete DIMA Form 47 CH, the Application for Migration to Australia by a Child, and DIMA Form 40 CH, the Sponsorship/Nomination for a Child to Migrate to Australia. (N.B. DIMA provide a separate information sheet in their requirements and process, however, should you require assistance with your DIMA Forms, your Programme Manager is available for assistance.).

PAPs are required to arrange an appointment with their Programme Manager to submit the DIMA Forms, the DIMA receipt and the documents outlined in the Migration Checklist, below. The Programme Manager will arrange for the Sponsorship Application to be sent by courier to the Australian Consulate in Shanghai: the courier's fee will be forwarded to PAPs. The Australian Consulate deals with all Sponsorship Applications regardless of where the child is located in China.

#### **MIGRATION CHECKLIST**

- Form 40CH - will be given to you by Adoption Service
- Form 47CH - will be given to you by Adoption Service
- \*Certified copy of child study report and medical report (in lieu of child's birth certificate) – Chinese and English version
- \*Proof of Sponsor's Australian Citizenship
  - If born in Australia, birth certificate is required
  - If Australian Citizenship was granted, then Australian Citizenship
  - Copy of information pages of passport
- \*Copy of Marriage Certificate
- \*Proof of Sponsor's Employment in last two years (one document is needed)
  - Australian income tax assessment notice...or
  - Letter from employer...or
  - Payslips
- 4 x passport photos of child (Arrange to have these made from the photo's given to you)
- Original migration visa receipt (pink copy)

All of the above paperwork needs to be provided to Adoption Service to be couriered to the Australian Consulate General in Shanghai.

\* = Certified – documents can be certified by Justice of the Peace, Notary, Lawyer, Doctor (medical) Pharmacist, School Principal, Bank Manager, Accountant or Minister of Religion

## 5.4 CHILD'S PASSPORT AND ADOPTION VISA

Your China Women's Travel Service liaison guide will assist you to organise your child's Chinese passport once the adoption process has been completed. The Chinese passport will be in the child's full Chinese name (therefore all travel tickets will need to be purchased in your child's full Chinese name; surname first, followed by the 2-part first name).

Your child will need an Australian Visa in their Chinese Passport for travel to Australia. The visa is dependent upon the child's Adoption Visa Clearance by the Australian Consulate-General in Shanghai. The Visa is only granted upon the approval of your child's Australian immigration medical examination, which you will attend with your child in Shanghai, with the support of CWTS.

A visa label will be attached to your child's passport as evidence of the child's visa clearance for entry into Australia.

## 5.5 CHILD'S NEW NAME

### **The adopted child's first name.**

When adopting a child from another country, or a locally born child, the expectation is that the child's first name shall be retained. This is a requirement of the Adoption Legislation and is recognised in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child.

Choosing a name for a child is very special to all parents, with parents' feelings, tradition and extended family affecting that choice. When considering the naming of an adopted child the same influences exist together with the issues of the child's culture of origin, birth parents' considerations, and the name and identity the child already has.

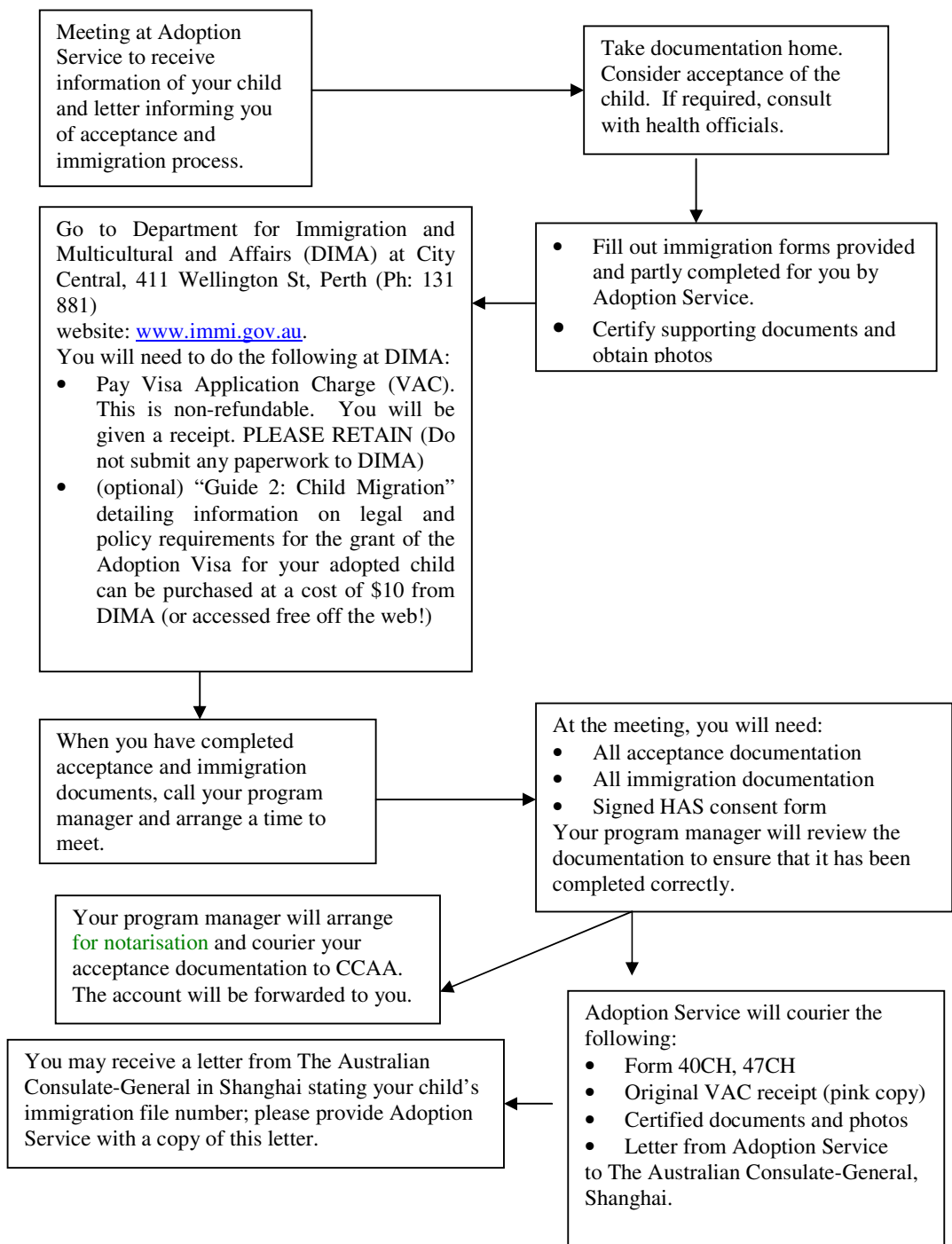
**It is now recognised that the child's first name is an important symbol of the child's past and culture, and therefore a very significant part of his/her identity.** In cases where the birthparents have chosen the name for the child, the maintaining of the birth name recognises the undeniable fact that the child has birthparents who form a critical part of the child's identity. For children born overseas, maintaining the child's name affirms that your child's cultural and national heritage are important to his/her identity. It also demonstrates to the world that the child's original cultural identity is a source of pride. It is an open acknowledgment of a positive kind of difference that will always be part of your child.

The right of a child to maintain its original name is recognised in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the child. Even for a child born overseas who has been named by a foster carer or orphanage worker, it still remains an important link to their heritage; a heritage that needs to be honoured in order for children to develop strong self worth and identity.

For these reasons the Adoption Act 1994 states the requirement that the child's first name be retained for those who have an adoption order granted in Western Australia. Adoptions from China are finalised in China, so this section is not a legal requirement for children adopted in China. You are asked, however, to respect the intention of this section of the Legislation, which is consistent with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and is strongly believed to be in the best interests of the child. In most cases adoptive parents willingly take the opportunity to recognise the child's origins and retain the child's first name, and it is hoped this trend will continue to strengthen.



## 5.6 FLOWCHART



## CHAPTER SIX

### PROCESS PRIOR TO TRAVEL

- According to the provisions of the Adoption Law in China, both adoptive applicants are required to travel. Applicants must be prepared to stay up to ten working days to complete the Adoption Agreement, to obtain the Chinese passport for the child and exit permits, take the child for their Australian visa medical and receive medical clearance and then apply for and obtain the Australian visa for the child.
- In exceptional circumstances where both applicants are unable to travel, then one applicant must travel to China. Where only one applicant is travelling, he or she must have a Power of Attorney from the spouse who is not travelling to China. The Power of Attorney must be prepared and two originals plus one copy taken to China. Applicants must anticipate the fees associated with a solicitor preparing and or notarising the Power of Attorney documents.”
- Other children from the family may travel to China for the adoption. Please speak with the program manager if you are considering including other people in your travel arrangements.

After the acceptance and immigration documentation for the allocation of a child have been completed, initial inquiries with your travel agent concerning travel to China can be made. Adoption Applicants in China are required to use the services of the approved Adoption Travel Service to guide them through the Adoption Process in the PRC. This is one of the conditions the Chinese Authority stipulated prior to agreeing to placing children for adoption with Australian applicants. The China Women’s Travel Service is the appointed agency for the Approved Destination Agreement with Australia. It is located in Beijing and sends guides from Beijing to various locations, or for very small numbers, may use local guides. It is a requirement that all Chinese Domestic flights are arranged through China Women’s Travel Service.

As discussed in Chapter 2, discussion between China Women’s Travel Service and Adoption Service concerning your adoption travel and service wishes cannot commence until after the Notice to Travel from CCAA arrives.

CWTS respectfully request that:

- all communications prior to travel be made through the Programme Manager; please do not contact CWTS directly.
- travel to China for the purpose of Adoption does not commence until a minimum of 14 days after the Notice to Travel is received by the Programme Manager

Please do not make firm travel bookings until your Program Manager has received the Notice to Travel AND confirmation from China Women’s Travel Service that your tentative travel plans and service requests can be accommodated, as without CWTS the adoption cannot progress.

At the direction of CCAA, we are no longer able to send Care Packages to your allocated child through their orphanage. CCAA has asked that all adoption agencies and applicants respect this direction. Care Package requirements place additional stress on care facilities that are often already understaffed and under-resourced.

## 6.1 NOTICE OF COMING TO CHINA FOR ADOPTION

When CCAA is ready to proceed with the adoption, Adoption Service will receive the ‘Notice of Coming to China for Adoption’ (two originals) from China. This is a formal notice from CCAA inviting you to collect your child from China within a three month period. The notice also invites you to attend to the registration procedures at the Adoption Registration Authority in your Child’s Provincial Capital in China. Once the NTT arrives, your Program Manager will contact you to arrange an appointment at Adoption service.

The translation of the ‘Notice of Coming to China for Adoption’ is as follows:

*“Based on the investigation, your application for adoption has basically met the adoption criteria and requirements of our country. You are allowed to adopt the child named: \_\_\_\_\_(female, DOB: \_\_\_\_\_, photo enclosed) who is under the guardianship and custody of \_\_\_\_\_. Please take this notice to the Adoption Registration Authority of Civil Affairs Bureau and the Notary Public of \_\_\_\_\_ for adoption registration and notarisation.”*

You may choose to have your notice formally translated for your personal file.

Once the NTT arrives at Adoption Service your Program Manager will contact you and you will be invited to attend a meeting at Adoption Service at your earliest convenience. At this meeting, your Program Manager will give you the following documents:

- NTT (2 x original NTT certificates; 2 certified colour copies, 2 standard copies) You MUST take all original notices and copies with you to China as they are required for both the Adoption and Immigration processes
- Information of Adoptive Parents form (CWTS)
- 2 x Chinese visa application form
  - Pre-Travel Information (DCD)

At the meeting, or as soon as possible thereafter, please provide your Programme Manager with your tentative travel dates and service requests, which will be communicated to CWTS for their consideration and quote.

## 6.2 YOUR CHINESE VISA

You will need a visa to travel to China. You can apply for your visa at the Chinese Consulate in East Perth once you have received the “Notice of Coming to China” (NTT). Your Program Manager will provide you with the Chinese Visa Application Forms. Please be aware that the Visa is only valid for 30 days from date of issue to the date of entry into China.

To arrange your travel visa, please take a certified copy and the original copy of your NTT to the Chinese Consulate in Perth.

You will need to provide a passport size photo and your passport, which must be valid for at least a further 6 months from the date you enter China. It is recommended that you also take with you to China a number of certified photocopies of your passport information and visa pages. It is also a good idea to take several copies of your passport photo with you to China in case more photos of you are required.

The visa section at the Chinese Consulate is open on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 8:30am – 12:00pm. The cost is \$30AUD per application and \$10AUD handling fee, and it takes approximately 2 to 3 working days to process. If you would like the visa the same day, then it will cost \$50 AUD. For US passport holders, the cost of the Visa is \$85AUD. For other non-Australian passport holders, the cost of the Visa is \$50AUD.

Chinese Consulate – 45 Brown St, East Perth WA  
Ph: 9221 6133  
For hours of opening please check with Consulate

### 6.3 DOCUMENTS

Prior to your departure for China you will be given a letter of introduction to CWTS and an escort letter from Adoption Service identifying the Chinese name of your allocated child and introducing you as the recognised and approved Prospective Adoptive Parent(s).

You will also be provided with a letter confirming the Department for Community Development's involvement in your adoption of a child from China, for the purpose of your return travel. The letter endorses that you are the legal adoptive parent/s of the child (as named in your allocation paperwork), and that the child will be travelling in your care to Australia. Additionally you will be given a copy of your Homestudy Documents, which you may require during the adoption process in China.

#### China Travel Documents Checklist

- Copy of Homestudy
  - Letter of Application Documentation
  - Certification of Approval from DCD (Adoption Service)
  - Birth Certificates (per applicant)
  - Marriage Certificate/Divorce Decrees (if applicable)
  - Single Status Declaration
  - Certificate of Profession
  - Certificate of Income and Property – Form 1
  - Health Examination Certificate – Form 2 (per applicant)
  - Police Clearance Certificate (per applicant)
  - Copy of Passport
  
- Information of Adoptive Parents Form (CCAA)
- 'Notice of Coming to China for Adoption' (CCAA original, two coloured copies and translated copy)
- Passport photos (at least 3 per applicant)
- Copies of Passport Information page and Visa
- Introduction Letter from DCD, from Adoption Service
- Escort Letter from DCD, from Adoption Service

## 6.4 TRAVEL ARRANGEMENTS

Once your Programme Manager has verified that your proposed itinerary has been confirmed by CWTS, you are invited to confirm your travel arrangements. Please book your flights to and from the PRC with your travel agent. You will need to book a one-way flight ticket from Shanghai to Perth for your child. Please ensure that your child's ticket is booked in their full Chinese name, as per their Chinese passport (surname first, followed by 2 part first name). As you are required to undertake the processing of your child's visa in Shanghai, it is recommended that your return flight to Perth departs from Shanghai. It is recommended that you take the most direct return journey as is possible, to minimise the disruption for your child.

Please be advised that travel to China for the purpose of adoption includes a non-negotiable travel package arranged for prospective adoptive parents by CWTS.

CWTS will be responsible for:

- Providing the Adoption Guide Service, including transport
- Nominating appropriate hotel accommodation
- Arranging all hotel accommodation
- Providing all hotel/airport transfer services
- Recommending and arranging all internal travel arrangements for completion of the adoption and Australian Immigration requirements

The above outlined responsibilities of CWTS are non-negotiable and will apply to all prospective adoptive parents adopting children from China.

In addition, please be advised:

- For allocations batched by CCAA, prospective adoptive parents will be united with their allocated children on the same date and undertake their adoptions as a group.
- CWTS will provide an *earliest possible adoption commencement date* for the group.
- Should the group decide to undertake travel in China prior to commencing their adoption process, an alternate adoption commencement date for the group will be negotiated with CWTS.
- The group will be invited to depart to China for the purpose of adoption travel:
  - following the receipt of the Notice to Travel from CCAA and
  - no more than 4 days before the *earliest possible adoption commencement date*, as provided by CWTS.
- All group members are required to be in the Capital City of their Child's Province at least 24 hours before the adoption commencement date.
- The adoption process will begin on a Monday, at which time you will be united with your child.

- Prospective adoptive parents are able to request (through CWTS) a visit to their child's Social Welfare Institute; however the Local Civil Affairs Office has the right to refuse this request. Where the request is refused by the Local Civil Affairs Office, this instruction needs to be respected; where the request is supported, the arrangement must be made through CWTS.
- Prospective adoptive families can request a sightseeing package through CWTS.
- CWTS will attempt to make hotel room bookings as per the request of prospective adoptive parents (i.e. standard, deluxe, adjoining).
- It is supported that Children of prospective adoptive parent/s accompany their parent/s to China for the adoption. Please discuss requests for other family members/significant others to accompany adoption travel to China.
- CCAA request that for all adoptions by married couples both prospective adoptive parents travel to China to meet and complete the adoption of their child. Single adoptive parents are also requested to travel to China to complete their adoption.

Adoption Service Staff have experienced CWTS to provide a reliable, high quality service for adoptive families. In the event of health or other concerns for adoptive families and/or their children, CWTS has provided significant levels of additional service and support, often at no extra charge. When allocations are received about which further information is required or problems arise, CWTS facilitate communication with the appropriate Government Services in China on behalf of Adoption Service, at no fee to the Service or adoptive parent/s. Of great importance, most adoptive parents report that the service of the adoption guides is efficient, polite and personable; many families appreciate lasting friendships with their adoption guides.

The Adoption and Immigration processes in China require that you stay in China for a minimum of 10 working days. CWTS will meet you at the airport when you arrive in China and will make all the necessary appointments for you. You will also have a liaison guide (from CWTS) who will arrange and accompany you to your various appointments, arrange some tours (optional and additional fees apply) and act as your translator. The liaison guide will be able to speak English and will be experienced in adoption work.

You will most likely meet your child when you first arrive in China and he or she will stay with you at your hotel.

It is best to arrive in China on a Sunday so as to be ready to meet your child and attend to the necessary requirements with the adoption process the following working day. Please check China's public holidays before you travel as businesses will not be open. Please check with Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade prior to travel for warnings and tips (<http://www.defat.gov.au/geo/china/>).

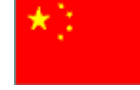
## 6.5 FEES

A week before you travel to China, you will need to transfer the fees for adoption service, transport and accommodation, as per your quote, into the CWTS bank account. The account details are as follows:

China Women Travel Service  
Account No.: 00056608094014  
Bank of China Head Office  
No.1 Fuxing Men Nei Street,  
Beijing, Peoples Republic of China

BIC (Bank identifier Code): BKCHCNBJ110

Alternatively, you can pay in cash or traveller's cheques to your Liaison Guide directly when you arrive in China.



## CHAPTER SEVEN

### ARRIVAL IN CHINA

#### 7.1 MEETING YOUR GUIDE AND CHILD

When you arrive in China, your guide from China Women's Travel Service will meet you and take you to your hotel. Your guide, who is trained in intercountry adoption matters, will take you through the adoption process during your stay in China. If you have any questions, please feel free to ask your guide.

The guide will organise for you to meet your child at the pre-arranged meeting place. The meeting generally takes place at the local Civil Affairs Bureau office however, in some cases, the meeting may occur at your hotel.

The Director of the orphanage, or their representative, will attend the meeting, and you will together sign a contract regarding the adoption. It is at this time that you will present the fee of US\$3,000-\$3500 cash (or the equivalent in Yuan) to the Director of the orphanage. This is an authorised and receipted amount, which is paid to cover the costs of keeping the child in care.

#### 7.2 VISITS TO CHILD'S ORPHANAGE

Visiting any orphanage in China is a sensitive issue. The China Centre for Adoption Affairs (CCAA) informs that there is restricted access to orphanages. Some local civil affairs in a few provinces and some orphanages will not mind if you visit, and CWTS will assist you to make these arrangements.

You should respectfully ask if you could visit the home of your child at the meeting with the Director of the orphanage. It is important to accept the decision made with both good grace and courtesy should your request not be approved.

#### 7.3 ADOPTION AGREEMENT

After applicant(s) arrive in the Provincial city and have met their child they will be asked to sign an adoption agreement with the person who has the authority to place the child for adoption. According to the Agreement, the parents or other legal guardians, will transfer the rights of fostering or guardianship to the adoptive applicant(s). The Adoption Agreement is 2 -3 pages in length and is signed by both the Orphanage Director and the parents, but it is not a legally binding document.

The CWTS guides will assist applicant(s) in making relevant appointments for the adoption. Please ensure that you have the following documents on your person for the appointment with the Provincial Civil Affairs Office:

- Passport + 4 copies
- Passport sized Photograph of each applicant
- Notice to Travel, original + 2 copies

At the provincial Office of Civil Affairs Office, a brief interview is conducted with an officer who may ask questions about why you are adopting a Chinese child, how you intend to care for the child, ensure that you will not abuse or abandon the child, that you promise to educate



the child and will treat the child as your own. The officer may also ensure that the applicant(s) are satisfied with the child with whom they have been matched and will also ask how much applicant(s) earn in US\$ and finish the interview by saying to the applicant(s) that the child is now hers/theirs. Generally the officer who conducts the interviews with applicant(s) is familiar with the process.

There will be a fee of between US\$100 and US\$250 paid in cash to the Civil Affairs Bureau. There will also be a fee (approximately US\$20) for taking the “family photograph” (applicant(s) and the adopted child) that is also taken at the Office in the Adoption Registration.

Once the agreement is signed, the fee of US\$3000 (to \$3500) is given to the Director of the Children’s Welfare Institution, if it was not exchanged during the initial meeting of the introduction of your child. The Director may ask for reimbursement of incidental expenses such as the fee for advertising abandonment (~US\$55) and the fee for transporting the child from the orphanage (~US\$40) to the Province capital for the meeting.

Once the adoption agreement is completed, applicants will be given the Adoption Registration Certificate, which comes in the form of a red booklet and contains a family photograph. An A translated copy of the document may also be provided.

The Office will also provide the following documents for notarisation.

- Child’s birth certificate
- Child’s abandonment certificate
- Adoption Certificate
- Child’s health certificate (Chinese Medical)

These documents may not be given to PAPs at this stage, but transferred directly to the Notary Public.

#### **7.4 REGISTRATION OF THE ADOPTION AGREEMENT**

PAPs are then required to accompany the legal guardian of the child to the designated Civil Affairs Bureau Notarial Office (usually the Notarial Public Office where the child’s household registration is held) to have the adoption notarised and registered.

The Notarial office will notarise the adoption agreement, the child’s birth certificate, abandonment certificate and health certificate.

In order to register the adoption, PAPs need to provide the following documents:

- Passport + 4 copies
- Passport sized Photograph of each applicant
- Notice to Travel + 2 copies

In addition, you may need to provide *photocopies* of the notarised and authenticated original documents that formed part of your Homestudy (\*Adoption Service will provide you with a full Homestudy Copy prior to your China Travel)

- birth certificates
- divorce decrees
- marriage certificate
- health certificate
- financial Statement
- police checks

It is likely that PAPs will be interviewed by the Notary Public. The meeting will usually be held in the Notary's office and may include similar questions as transpired in the Civil Affairs Office.

In order to obtain an entry visa to Australia for the child, an adoption **compliance certificate** is required. The certificate issued by the Notarial Office will include the child's name, date of birth and name of adoptive parent(s) and will state that the competent authorities in the PRC have agreed to the adoption. The process of notarisation can be expected to take a **minimum** of three working days. PAPs should be aware that it might take longer depending on the province. The guide will facilitate this process.

PAPs will pay a notarisation and registration fee of between US\$350 and US\$750.

The Notarial Office issues PAPs with three or more sets of the following notarised documents (in booklet form):

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Child's Abandonment Certificate
- Adoption Certificate
- Child's health certificate

A fourth set is issued directly to the Orphanage in order to obtain the child's passport and exit permit. This process may vary from one locality to another. For instance, the translation of the Adoption Registration (red book) may be in a booklet form, or, on a separate single sheet.

## 7.5 OBTAINING A PASSPORT FOR THE CHILD

After the Adoption Agreement is signed and notarised and the adoption is registered, a Chinese passport and exit permit for the child can be obtained using the Adoption (Registration) Agreement Notarial Certificate (red booklet). Depending on the orphanage/locality, this may be obtained in a variety of ways - through the local Public Security Bureau, the Police Station or via the Orphanage Director – this process is facilitated by your CWTS guide. In some localities the police also conduct a brief interview (As per Section 8.4).

To obtain a passport for the child the following notarised documents are also required:

- Child's Birth Certificate
- Child's Abandonment Certificate
- Adoption Certificate

The cost of the passport varies from US\$100 - US\$150. Your adopted child will travel from the PRC to Australia on their Chinese passport.

## 7.6 MEDICAL EXAMINATION

The Australian Consulate in Shanghai is responsible for the processing of visas for all children adopted from China by Australian adoptive parents. You will need to travel to Shanghai with your child to undertake the child's medical examination for the purpose of the Australian Visa Application. CWTS will arrange the appointment with the panel doctor and you will accompany you and your child to the appointment. Once the medical examination has been completed, the panel doctor will send the report by courier to the Australian Consulate in Shanghai. The Australian Consulate is in the same building as the panel doctor, but it is essential that you do not handle this paperwork. The panel doctor must forward their assessment onto the Consulate and your guide from CWTS will ensure that this happens. The

Australian Consulate will fax the report to the Health Assessment Service (HAS) in Sydney. HAS gives priority to adoption medicals and reviews them within 3 working days. Once all requirements have been met, your child's visa will be issued at the Australian Consulate.

We would anticipate that the medical appointment with the panel doctor would be arranged for the Monday of the second week you are in China. We anticipate that the process should be completed by the Thursday of the same week and the visa for your child issued the following day, if all requirements have been met. Be aware that these timelines are not fixed and that delays could occur.

Please be aware that your child will need to undergo a blood test for the immigration medicals. Some of the procedures are administered differently in China than in Australia. If you would like to discuss this, please feel free to contact your Program Manager or GP.

## **7.7 OBTAINING A VISA FOR ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA**

The Australian Consulate in Shanghai will issue a visa for a child to enter Australia once they are satisfied that the adoption complies with the Migration Regulations.

The Consulate requires the following documents (all should be translated into English):

- Child's Chinese passport (with exit permit)
- Notarised Birth Certificate of the child
- Notarised Abandonment Certificate or Death Certificate (in the case of an orphan)
- Notarised Adoption Certificate
- Copy of Notice to Travel (to sight only – they will return this to the applicant(s) once the visa is ready for collection)

The issuing of a visa, providing everything is in order, will take 24-48 hours. Once the visa has been evidenced in your child's passport, they are permitted to enter Australia and return travel to Perth can commence. Again, please be aware that all documents for Immigration and travel purposes are issued in the child's Chinese name.

## **7.8 USEFUL CONTACTS**

Should you have any problems whilst overseas, you may contact us at:

Adoption Service  
618-9222 2555 during business hours.

Department for Community Development after hours service, Crisis Care:

For Child's Visa:            Shanghai-Australian Consulate General  
Suite 401 Shanghai Centre  
1376 Nanjing Xi Lu, Shanghai 200040  
Ph: 86 21 6279 8098 – between 1.30pm and 4.30pm, Mon to Fri.  
Client contact hours are 8.30am to 12 noon, Mon to Fri

Other contacts: Beijing            Australian Embassy  
(Ph: 86 10 6532 2331)

Shanghai            Australian Consulate-General  
(Ph: 86 21 6279 8098)

## CHAPTER EIGHT

### CHINA

#### 8.1 CULTURAL INFORMATION

- Please dress respectfully (neat casual), particularly for meetings with the adoption officials/representatives.
- Tipping is customary and prospective adoptive parent(s) should anticipate this. As a guide you might expect to tip the National Guide, Local Guide, Driver and Bellman. If travelling in a group please elect someone to collect monies on the groups behalf to distribute.
- If you would like to give gifts, you are welcome to do so. Gifts do not have to be elaborate or expensive, but should be wrapped neatly in red or other culturally appropriate colour. You can present your gifts at the beginning of your meeting as a sign of sincerity and best wishes.

#### 8.2 USEFUL TIPS FROM ADOPTIVE PARENTS

- Make extra copies of documents, passports, passport-sized photos (applicants and child's) – as this will save you looking for a photocopier in China.
- A few common Chinese words would be useful in establishing a quicker rapport, especially with an older child. Bear in mind, that the child would already have developed some language skills in his/her mother tongue as young as 2 years. When you meet the child, it would be nice to be able to say a few words such as hello (ni hao) and good bye (zai jian). Ask your guide to help you!
- Bringing extra passport sized photos (4x of each of you) as these will be needed during the formalisation of the adoption process in China.
- Make several duplicate copies of both applicant(s) Australian passport(s). You will need these during the formalisation of the adoption process in China.
- Make several duplicate copies of your child's passport sized photos. You may need these during the formalisation of the adoption process in China/
- Bringing clothes for your child as he or she will usually leave the orphanage with only the clothes that he/she is wearing. Clothing can be bought in China at a reasonable cost.
- If you are adopting a baby under 12 months old, it is a good idea to bring a couple of baby dummies or pacifiers that would suit your child's age.
- You can buy baby/toddler feeding bottles in China.
- Baby formulas: It is a good idea to continue with the current formula used by the carer/orphanage and even buy an extra tin or two from China to bring it back with you. If you decide to do this, you must declare opened and unopened times of baby formula when

you arrive back in Perth. If formula tins are opened, it may be taken off you at customs. If you can, keep the tin sealed and unopened. Some adoptive parents have reported that it was difficult to buy formula in China and have brought some from Australia with them.

- Baby rug/blanket for the trip home. This is quite handy in the plane or you could ask the flight attendant for a spare blanket during your flight.
- Spare baby pillow – optional. The airlines will provide extra pillows during your flight.
- A photo album to give to your child's carer or orphanage to show them where you live and where your adopted child will be growing up, and photos of your family.
- Enough Travellers Cheques (US currency) – shopping, emergency, etc. It can be difficult to change traveller's cheques as only certain banks do it. China is a cash economy and you will not be able to use traveller's cheques to pay for items in department stores/.
- Imodium – in case you get the dreaded tummy bug. Check with your Medical/Health practitioner.
- Baby Panadol/Painstop. Check with your Medical/Health practitioner.
- Gift wrapping paper – it is best to wrap your gifts when you get to China to avoid creases. Don't forget sticky tape and wrapper.
- Passport – check that your passport is not going to expire within 6 months time, before you leave for China. If it is, then it needs to be renewed. Passport renewal forms can be obtained at the post office.
- A gift for your child. Don't forget to bring a gift for your child. A soft toy is usually popular with children. With older children, you can bring along a colouring book, colour pencils, crayons, and a couple of picture books. A child's mini bag pack is quite popular with older children as it is something they can carry with them and have ownership of.
- You may like to take a few emergency supplies with you like cup-a-soups, packets of biscuits, muesli bars etc.
- Broad spectrum antibiotics for yourself and your child – ask your GP
- Antiseptic hand gel (from the baby section of the supermarket) is useful as public toilets do not always have running water and it is not always possible to wash your hands before you eat.
- China has the same three pronged socket as in Australia, so you do not have to worry about electrical appliances that you take over there.
- Always drink bottled water (very cheap in China) and brush your teeth with bottled water.
- You can buy most things at the supermarket like shampoo, soap, snacks, tea, and coffee at very good prices.

## CHAPTER NINE

### RETURN TO WESTERN AUSTRALIA

#### 9.1 MEETING WITH PROGRAM MANAGER

When you have arrived in Perth, please call your Program Manager within 72 hours of your arrival. You will need to arrange an appointment either at home or at Adoption Service bringing along with you your newly adopted child, your child's passport and adoption documents including the Chinese Adoption Order and Certificate of Compliance. These will be photocopied and returned to you.

You will also be provided with letters to support your application to Medicare and Centrelink, and for an appointment for your child with a paediatrician (as recommended in adoption legislation).

#### 9.2 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- **Medicare** - You will need to register your adopted child with Medicare. If you are a member of a private medical benefit fund, your child should also be added to your membership. Please present your adoption documentation to Medicare.
- **Centrelink** - You may be entitled to Family allowance, Parenting Payment or Maternity Payment from the date of your return to Western Australia. **BABY PAYMENT**
- **Child Health Clinic** - You are advised to take your child to an Infant/Child Health Clinic at your local community on a regular basis and ensure that the clinic book is kept up to date.
- **Health Check** – Please arrange an appointment at the State Child Development Centre (SCDC; 4 - 16 Rheola Street, West Perth, WA 6005, phone 9481 2203), or an appropriate alternate paediatric service, for a full health check and developmental assessment of your child. Cost of the examination through SCDC is approximately \$123.00.
- An **Adoption Order** made in China will automatically be recognised upon the child's entry to Australia under the Family Law (Hague Convention on Intercountry Adoption) Regulations 1998, the Adoption Act 1994 as amended, the Adoption Regulations 1995 and the Adoption Regulations 1999 and will take effect from the date the order is made in the Chinese court and the Compliance Certificate is issued.
- **Progress Reports** - China requires two reports to be prepared and forwarded by Adoption Services to CCAA detailing the progress of the adoption. The first report is to be submitted within the first six months of placement and the second report forwarded six months later. Please provide your program Manager with at least 6 photos of your child and your family to be included with each report and a bank cheque for translation services, made out to BLAS.
- **Child's Australian Citizenship** – Accessing Australian Citizenship for your child is part of the adoption agreement between Australia and the PRC. You are urged to apply for your child's citizenship (evidence) as soon as possible following your return to Western Australia. A copy is to be provided to Adoption Service for forwarding to China together with the first Progress Report. CCAA insist that 6 monthly supervision continue beyond the prescribed 12 months if they have not received the Evidence of Australian Citizenship for a child.  
Form 124 – Australian Citizenship (obtain from DIMA Perth or from the web).  
Please note – Adoption Staff members are able to sign the proof of identity declaration (Qu. 52) for your adopted child.
- **Child's Australian Passport** – You can apply for the passport once you have obtained citizenship for your child.

### **9.3 POST PLACEMENT REQUIREMENTS**

Adoption Service staff are available to assist and support you and your child to adjust during the first six months of adoption. A Social Worker will conduct monthly home visits for the first 6 months following your return to Western Australia; a further home visit will be undertaken during the following 6 months. Your Programme Manager will also be available to you for phone calls and additional visits as required. As per the adoption agreement between Australia and China, a 6 month and 12 month Progress Report will be sent to CCAA for their record and information.

The reports will cover the child's progress in the adoptive family, details of your child's growth and development, health, education (where applicable) and the progress of the family in adjusting to the placement. CCAA treats the progress reports very seriously and the reports are a part of the Chinese Adoption Legislation. Failure to provide the reports can jeopardise the program for future applicants.

Please provide a bank cheque of US\$30 with each report for the translation costs. The Bank cheque is made payable to "BLAS", Beijing, China. CCAA arranges this translation service. Each report will be couriered to China by the Department. The account for the cost of the courier will be forwarded to you.

### **9.4 RECOGNITION OF THE CHINESE ADOPTION ORDER IN AUSTRALIA**

An adoption made in the People's Republic of China is automatically recognised under the *Family Law (Bilateral Arrangements - Intercountry Adoption) Regulations 1998* or the relevant State or Territory legislation where these regulations have been implemented.

The adoptive applicant(s) is/are the legal parent(s) on the day that the adoption of the child is registered and an application for grant of citizenship can be made once all the formalities for the PRC and entry to Australia have been completed. An application for an adoption order in Australia is not necessary and cannot be made.

### **9.5 CHILD'S AUSTRALIAN CITIZENSHIP AND PASSPORT**

Soon after your child's arrival in Australia, you will need to apply for your child's certificate of citizenship. Once this is done, please give Adoption Service a copy so that it can be forwarded to China, together with the first placement supervision report.

Form 124– Australian Citizenship (obtain from DIMA, Perth or from the web).

You can apply for your child's Australian passport once you have your child's citizenship. Adoptive parents have found it difficult to lodge the Australian passport form for an adopted child at a post office as the adoption is finalised in China. The best option is to complete the passport form for your child and go directly into Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in the city (Level 17, Exchange Plaza, Sherwood Court, Perth. Ph: 9231 4499). Please note however that they do not have appointments, so you might have to wait.

## **9.6 CASE CLOSED**

Once the Department has conducted the final visit as required by China, and the final report sent off to CCAA, your case will then be officially closed...But we welcome you to keep in touch with Adoption Service and to let staff know how you and your child are going. We are always very keen to hear your news.

## **9.7 POST ADOPTION SERVICES**

CCAA has a program for post-adoption services. All details regarding the adoption are kept by CCAA. After your child turns 18 years of age, they can make direct enquires to CCAA.

Att: Ms Zhao Li Hua (Director – Archive Dept)  
Administration Department of China Centre of Adoption Affairs  
Sun Light International Plaza  
No. 16 Wang Jia Yuan Lane  
Dong Cheng District, Beijing, 100027  
People's Republic of China.

## **9.8 CONTACT WITH CHINA**

Your China Program Manager will make all contacts to China regarding your adoption application. Adoption Service has the sole authority to act on behalf of you for all arrangements and negotiations.

It is important that you do not have direct contact with the CCAA or go through a third party for your case. It can be open to misinterpretation and can be seen as making a private adoption arrangement. This could jeopardise your allocation and the reputation of the program. It will cause unnecessary delays and confusion for all parties involved.

The Program Manager will make every effort to maintain contact with you along the adoption journey. Please contact your Program Manager whenever you need to.



## APPENDIX

### PROGRAM MANAGER

It's the Program Manager's responsibility to:

1. provide support to Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) during your adoption journey to make the process as smooth as possible
2. help Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) prepare the Homestudy and Acceptance Documents for China
3. keep in contact with China regarding your application
4. keep in contact with Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) and advise them of the progress of their application
5. provide up to date information if any changes occur
6. help Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) prepare for their child
7. offer any further helpful information concerning Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) trip to China
8. provide support and supervise the placement of the child
9. help Prospective Adoptive Parent(s) with post adoption services

### HAGUE CONVENTION

China has ratified the Hague Convention which provides internationally agreed minimum standards to be observed regarding intercountry adoptions.

The adoption of children by Australian citizens from the People's Republic of China (PRC) is governed by:

1. the Adoption Law of the People's Republic of China (adopted by fifth Meeting of the Standing Committee of the Ninth National People's Congress of the People's Republic of China on 4 November 1998) which came into force on 1 April 1999
2. implementation measures on the adoption of children by foreigners in the People's Republic of China
3. the *Family Law (Bilateral Arrangements - Intercountry Adoption) Regulations 1998*
4. the relevant legislation and policy of the state or territory in which the applicant(s) resides
5. the relevant migration laws and regulations.

## USEFUL WEBSITES/BOOKS

- [http:// www.china-ccaa.org](http://www.china-ccaa.org)  
*This is the website of the China Centre for Adoption Affairs, which is the Chinese authority which will consider your application and may allocate a child to you. A very important website, it also gives updates on criteria and latest news.*
- <http://www.fwcc.org>  
*A must read!! This website provides lots and lots of very useful information about adopting a child from China. The website is maintained by adoptive parents and is an accumulation of lots of interesting articles.*
- <http://www.cnto.org.au>  
*This is a travel website (China National Tourist Office) with lots of practical information such as transport, money, food and shopping!*
- <http://www.defat.gov.au/geo/china/>  
*The Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website.*
- <http://www.chinaembassy.org.au/eng/index.html>  
*The Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Australia website.*
- *Lonely Planet CHINA guide approx \$44AUD from all book stores (VERY USEFUL)*
- [http://www.cyh.com/cyh/parenttopics/usr\\_index0.stm?topic\\_id=280](http://www.cyh.com/cyh/parenttopics/usr_index0.stm?topic_id=280)
- [http://www.cyh.com/cyh/parenttopics/usr\\_index0.stm?topic\\_id=326](http://www.cyh.com/cyh/parenttopics/usr_index0.stm?topic_id=326)  
*These websites are from Child and Youth Health. The first site specifically deals with adopted a child and the age and stages of development. There are lots of useful hints to parents. The second site is specific to intercountry adoptions. This site is also extremely useful during the settling-in stage. I highly recommend these sites to you.*
- <http://www.calib.com/naic/>  
*Although this is an American website, there are numerous interesting articles (especially If you go into prospective and adoptive parents and then into transracial and transcultural adoption). Just keep in mind that the procedures and laws are different! Enjoy!*
- <http://www.attach-china.org/TOC.html>  
*What a gem! Another fantastic website, full of information about attachment theory and Chinese children, particularly children who have been institutionalised! Your only problem will be whether to turn the computer off or not!*
- <http://members.aol.com/billgage/InternationalGeneral.html>  
*A book website. There are a couple of books that look interesting. If you are considering buying a book on this topic, then have a browse. Some books have direct links to Amazon for your convenience.*
- <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/hssb/cultdiv/cultdiv/chinese.htm>  
*Queensland Health website. It is a profile on Chinese people. This site is general and is not specific to adoptions, but does give an insight to what an older child might have experienced in their biological parents care or even in their orphanage.*
- <http://www.emkpress.com>

*Adoption Publishing Company – adoption themed materials for Infants to Young Adults from the perspective of the child. Helpful to all families formed through adoption. Deals with loss, belonging and collecting.*

- **The Colour of Difference – Journeys in transracial Adoption.** Edited by Sarah Armstrong and Petrina Slaytor.  
*Discusses issues around transracial adoption, themes arising through the first person accounts and statistics on the scale of transracial adoption.*

## NOTES

**GOOD LUCK AND ALL THE BEST.....Zai Jiia**

