

## Adoption and Family Information Service

# Intercountry Adoption News

Volume 3, Issue 6: August/September 2007

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### Editorial

You always know it's Spring when you see the packed Show Buses leaving Grenfell Street, the decorated poles along King William Street and the ads on TV for masses of show bags for the kids to buy! And you can't miss knowing its Spring when the daffodils start shining their yellow faces in your direction. Of course, Spring rains would be great, but the bright days and warmer evenings are wonderful. So, welcome to Spring!



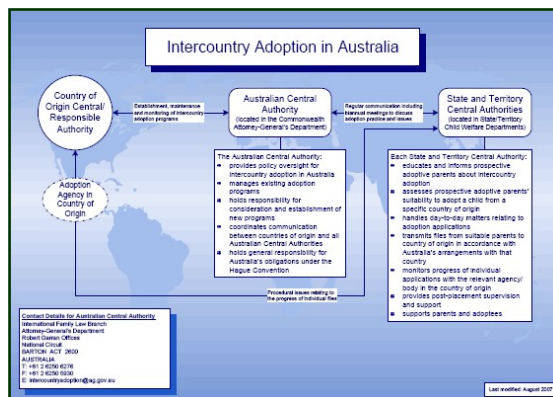
Source: Royal Show website

This edition of the AFIS intercountry adoption newsletter has updates about different countries, about new websites and about other happenings in South Australia. Two websites of note are the new look AFIS website and that of the Australian Central Adoption Authority (ACA), which was recently launched. You'll find separate items on both these sites and we encourage you to check them out.

We also have an extensive update on the China changes, in particular confirmation from the China adoption authority about the changed application criteria. There is also some important information for you on the new national Intercountry Adoption Peak Group that will be formed in the near future by the Australian Attorney-General. We have some new books to talk about, a new play group and the OzAsia Festival. There's plenty in this edition of your regular newsletter, so we hope you enjoy it.

### Intercountry adoption chart

Ever been confused about who the Australian Central Adoption Authority is and just who it is in relation to AFIS? Ever wondered just how all those authorities fit with overseas authorities and how all that stuff works?



This chart shows the relationships between all the Australian authorities and overseas agencies in intercountry adoption and gives you some information about the main functions. If you need to see the chart in a bigger size, [click here](#) or on the graphic for a bigger version.

(Chart provided by the Australian Central Adoption Authority)

## Ethiopian Millennium 2000

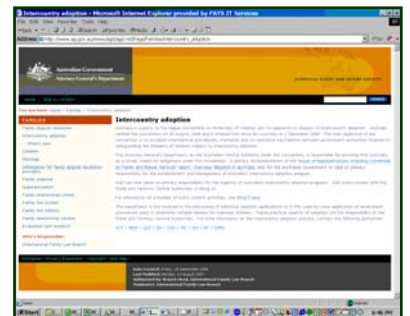
Ethiopians celebrate New Year on 11 September each year (12 September in a leap year). Their calendar has 12 months of 30 days each and a 13<sup>th</sup> month of 5 days (or 6 days every fourth year) and is 7 years back from our calendar. So, 2007 of our calendar represents 2000 in the Ethiopian calendar, and it is thus their Millennium. Many projects are in place for this event and thousands of Ethiopians all over the world will be participating. In South Australia many of the families with adopted children from Ethiopia have sent sets of photos of their children as part of the event. These will be displayed in a project that celebrates the connection of Australian Ethiopian adopted children with their homeland. Thank you to all the families who contributed. The Millennium celebrations will continue in Ethiopia for a full year. See the [Ethiopian Millennium 2000 website](#) which has plenty of information about what's on.



## ACA news – visit to Adelaide and new website

Kathleen Falko, Principal Legal Officer and Ruvani Panagoda, Legal Officer of the International Family Law Branch (ACA) both visited Adelaide on 6 September. The two main reasons for the visit were to meet with the South Australian Intercountry Adoption Support Groups to discuss the establishment of the National Intercountry Adoption Peak Group (*see separate item this edition*) and to meet with AFIS to have a formal handover of the lead state responsibilities for the India-Australia program which SA has held for some years. The ACA now has overall responsibility for the India program while the States and Territories have case management responsibilities. Both meetings were very positive. The support groups will soon nominate their representatives for the national group – the final composition of the group will be the prerogative of the Australian Attorney-General and this should be finalised in October. The group will then become a consultative/advisory group for the ACA. There is a dedicated position on the group for an intercountry adoptee as well as for a professional/academic position to enable the perspectives of birth parents and governments in overseas countries to be represented, as well as to contribute information about broader international issues.

The [ACA website](#) is in development phase and will be an excellent resource of information about intercountry adoption in Australia. It is expected that it will be available in the near future. In the meantime a basic home page has been published that you can access. It describes the functions of the ACA and provides links to the websites of all Australian Central Authorities. Under **What's New**, it has links to changes in the Commonwealth-State Agreement, The Hague Conference meeting in June and the ACA's recent visits to Kenya and Vietnam.



## Establishment of ICA Peak Group – FAQs

The 2005 House of Representatives [Inquiry into Children Adopted from Overseas](#) recommended that the Australian Attorney-General's Department establish a national Intercountry Adoption Peak Group. Staff at the ACA have been working in consultation with adoption support groups around the country toward setting up this group. Consultation has covered such issues as who can be nominated as representatives on the group and how it will be structured.

A number of questions have been asked about the establishment of the Peak Group. An information sheet of frequently asked questions about the it has been prepared by the ACA and is available by [clicking here](#). Any additional questions can be emailed to the ACA at [intercountryadoption@ag.gov.au](mailto:intercountryadoption@ag.gov.au).

## 9<sup>th</sup> Australian Adoption Conference 2008

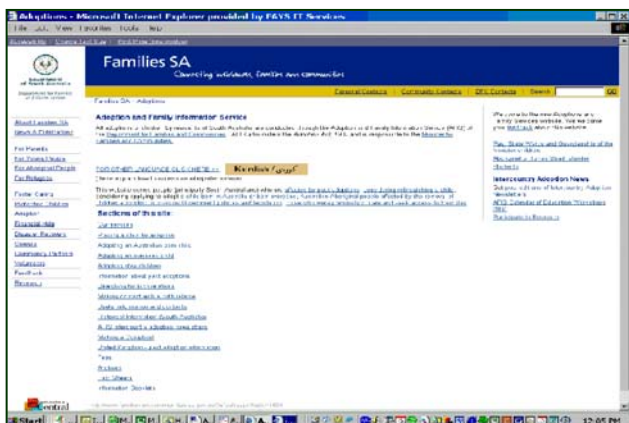


### September 2-5 2008 - Stamford Plaza Double Bay, Sydney

The inspiration for the theme of the 9th Australian Adoption Conference "Connecting the Past, Securing the Future" is inspired by a quote from Hunnderwasser: "If we do not honour our past, we lose our future. If we destroy our roots, we cannot grow."

The conference is now calling for papers. Further details regarding the conference and the abstract application form are available from the conference website: [www.australianadoptionconference.com](http://www.australianadoptionconference.com).

## AFIS website



The AFIS website has had a major revamp and is now an official part of the website of the Department for Families and Communities. You will see from the graphic on the left that the format has changed significantly and you will find it is simpler to look at and easier to navigate around.

The URL is the same. That is, if you type [www.adoptions.sa.gov.au](http://www.adoptions.sa.gov.au) into your browser, you will come up with the AFIS website.

There will be more changes on a weekly basis as various pages are edited and better ways of presenting information are put in place. If you have any feedback about the site, please let us know by [emailing us](#).

## China – information from the visit by Chinese officials, May 2007

In May this year, a delegation of China Centre for Adoption Affairs (CCAA) officials visited Australia and met with the all the Australian Central Authority representatives who were gathered for a scheduled 6 monthly meeting in Canberra. The delegation confirmed that the CCAA is committed to continuing to support the Intercountry Adoption Program and the Chinese children already placed with adoptive families across the world. (You can find a related item in the [last edition](#) of this newsletter). While the delegation was in Canberra, clarification was sought about the application criteria changes to the China program. These clarifications are set out below with a number of other points of interest to our China applicants:



*Ms Chu Xiaoming (centre) Deputy Director General CCAA, Canberra May 2007*

### Reasons for the revised eligibility criteria

- The revised eligibility criteria introduced in December 2006 (effective 1 May 2007) are designed by CCAA to redress the imbalance between rising world wide numbers of applications and decreasing numbers of Chinese children needing foreign adoptive families. By restricting eligibility the CCAA aims to eventually reduce the waiting times for allocation.
- The delegation stated that of all the adoptions in China each month, only a small number require foreign adoption. This is because Chinese people are changing their mindset and abandonment of children is not as common as it once was. CCAA believes that adoption within country of birth is considered to be in the best interests of children and Australia supports CCAA in this principle of the Hague Convention.

### Clarification of revised eligibility criteria

- No history of any forms of cancer in applicants are permitted including leukaemia; no history of any use of illegal drugs including recreational marijuana use as a young person; monocular blindness with or without a prosthetic is considered in terms of the physical appearance of the applicant and is acceptable if the person's appearance is not affected; hearing loss with aid is acceptable only if the applicant's speech and communication patterns are normal and effective; any form of depression including reactive depression due to infertility must be assessed carefully – if any medication was taken the applicants must be 2 years clear of this use.
- Applicants must have completed 12–13 years of education (for Australia this is 12 years). If applicants left school earlier the vocational training acceptable to CCAA must be the equivalent in time to 12 years study. It must also be a recognised course with a certificate/diploma etc. For example, if the applicant left school in year 10 they must subsequently have studied for an equivalent 2 years in a recognised course.
- CCAA does not require evidence of vocational training as part of the dossier, but requires adoption agencies to sight the evidence and state this clearly in the Home Study Report.
- Expedited applicants of Chinese ethnicity can expect to wait approximately 12–15 months for child referral at the current time. CCAA has restricted the definition of eligibility for expedition to second generation only. Evidence of this is now required for submission to CCAA together with the applicant dossier in the form of notarised copies of the applicant's or the applicant's parent's birth certificates.

## China – information from the visit by Chinese officials, May 2007 (cont...)

### Children needing overseas adoptive families

- The majority of children needing intercountry adoption are aged between 10 and 24 months of age. Very few children between the ages of 2 and 6 years need adoption with the exception of children with special needs. The proportion of children with special needs is increasing and it is difficult to place these children.
- In the past applicants approved and logged in to CCAA for the healthy child program have been able to change to the special needs program. The delegation reported that this is no longer encouraged and asked the Australian authorities to discourage such requests for transfer.
- The anticipated waiting time for an allocation is currently 24<sup>+</sup> months once the application is logged in with CCAA. The delegation believes this waiting period will increase to 2–3 years, but could not be specific about when this may happen. Waiting times are directly linked to applicant numbers and children placed each month. CCAA seeks the understanding and patience of applicants about this.
- When the wait exceeds 2 years CCAA does not require updated dossier documents. However, CCAA does expect agencies to fully update their approvals for all applicants prior to the expiry of their registration as prospective adoptive parents. If any significant changes have occurred, CCAA requires a copy of the updated home study and approval. Such changes include changed relationship, loss of employment, care of or adoption of another child, significant changes to financial circumstances, health status etc.

### Post placement reports

- The CCAA expects that the post placement reports of adopted children will be forwarded to CCAA via government agencies only. Applicants are not permitted to send the required or additional reports directly to the CCAA. When this happens it causes administrative difficulties for the CCAA. CCAA requested that post placement reports for a batch are sent to them together as it assists with processing.

### Tracking applications

- Agency only access to an on-line file tracking system has been developed and allows Central Authorities to enter file data and directly access log in and file status details. User names and details for using the system are held confidentially by the Central Authorities.

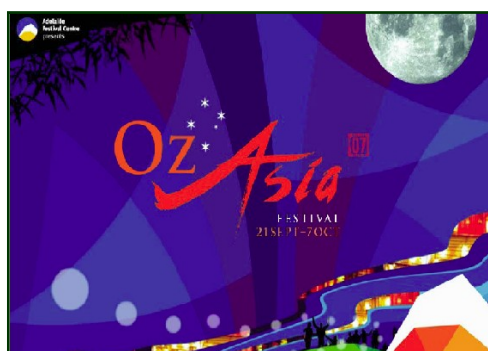
### Beijing Olympics

- In terms of the Beijing Olympics in 2008, CCAA anticipates no impact on the processing of adoption applications. However, the delegation acknowledged the likely difficulties in travel and accommodation for applicants at that time. They suggest that agencies ask applicants to suspend any travel to China during the two weeks of the Olympics.

### Homeland tour

- The delegation offered their full support for a 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary visit to China by families with children adopted from China. They have asked to be kept informed of Australia's plans and they will support and assist in whatever way they can. This visit is being planned by the national group [Families With Children From China](#).

## Oz Asia Festival



The OzAsia Festival will be staged for the first time between 21 September to 7 October 2007 in and around the Adelaide Festival Centre. The Festival will include a wide range of contemporary Asian/Australian visual and performing arts and visits by many dignitaries from the Asian region. A major feature will be the inaugural Adelaide Moon Lantern Festival that will be celebrated over 3½ hours commencing at 6.00pm at Elder Park on 25 September.

The official [Moon Festival website](#) says "When the full moon rises high in the night sky, it calls families and lovers both near and far to reflect on the strong bonds that unite us. On this special night, we think about absent loved ones, eat moon cakes, and enjoy being

together under the moon. The OzAsia Moon Lantern Festival will feature schoolchildren and community groups from across South Australia parading hand-made traditional and contemporary lanterns, together with storytelling, martial arts, music, dance, Asian cuisine and Dragon Boats on the River Torrens. **Entry is free.** Festivities from 6pm starting with a Buddhist blessing in the Rotunda. The Lantern Parade starts soon after sunset". Check out the program at the [OzAsia Festival website](#) and also check out the website of the [South Australian Chinese Adoption Support Group](#) to see what they are doing for this festival.

## Visit from General Director of Thailand Child Adoption Centre *report by Cina Mastrantone*

*Cina Mastrantone, the Thailand Adoption Program Coordinator writes about the visit to Adelaide of the General Director of the Thailand Child Adoption Centre.*



*Mrs Chalati Punnabutr (2<sup>nd</sup> from right) with Rod, Cynthia, Chris and Cina*

AFIS hosted a visit from Mrs Chalati Punnabutr, the Director-General of the Child Adoption Centre in Thailand, from 1-3 July. The Centre is part of the Department of Social Welfare and Development and it oversees the adoption of all children who require out of home care across all child care agencies operating in her country.

Mrs Punnabutr's first event during the visit was meeting 20 families with children adopted from Thailand. This was held on a sunny Sunday winter afternoon in the beautiful grounds of the Fullarton Community Centre. Anyone present could see how genuinely pleased Mrs Punnabutr was to see all the children and her interaction with young and old alike appeared heartfelt and effortless. I will never forget how she bent down and greeted the younger children at their own level and spoke to them in Thai.

First thing Monday, Mrs Punnabutr arrived at the AFIS offices and met with all the staff. She spent time with staff working in each program area to understand all of AFIS's work. She met later with Rod Squires, who is the Director, Adoption and Refugee and Volunteer Services. Some new information that Mrs Punnabutr shared was the increasing trend to arrange foster care for children in Thailand. The good news is that there may be a possibility that children will be cared for by foster parents in the future rather than in institutional care. This meeting was followed by lunch at the popular Star of Siam Restaurant on cosmopolitan Gouger Street. Mrs Punnabutr's final task was meeting the current applicants undertaking the adoption process for Thailand. She shared information about the adoption needs of Thai children and answered some of the questions posed by the applicants over a leisurely lunch enjoyed by all present.



*Mrs Chalati Punnabutr (seated 2<sup>nd</sup> from right) at morning tea with AFIS*

In summary, while this was a short whistle stop visit, it was a worthwhile opportunity to meet with Mrs Chalati Punnabutr who generously gave of herself and provided a wonderful insight into the needs of children in the Thailand inter-country adoption program.

## Korea update



Discussions were held in early July between the ACA and Eastern Social Welfare Society (ESWS) about the current suspension of the Korea adoption program. Last year Korea decided that it would not receive applications from Australia during 2007. The current suspension of the program is a result of the Korean Government's efforts to promote domestic adoption in their country. Australia supports Korea in this respect and notes that the preference for domestic adoption over intercountry adoption is consistent with the Hague Convention to which Australia is a party.

There are currently 48 outstanding Australian files lodged at ESWS which has confirmed that once it has dealt with these files, it may be in a position to start accepting new applications from prospective adoptive parents in Australia. However, it is important to note that ESWS was not specific about when it considers a file to be dealt with. ESWS was also unable to provide an estimate of how long it would take for a file to be dealt with or the number of applications that they might accept from Australia in the future. The ACA will keep in contact with ESWS and will provide updated information as it becomes available. The ESWS noted that it hopes to continue the good relationship that has been developed between Australia and Korea.

## Preet Mandir update (India)

Preet Mandir is the main agency from which Indian children came who were adopted by South Australian families between 2000 and 2006. In June 2006 television Network IBN, the Indian subsidiary of CNN, broadcast a "special investigation" into the activities of Preet Mandir. Subsequently, in a series of Indian programs, news items and internet reports, it was variously accused of trafficking in children for adoption, bypassing Indian adoption guidelines, destruction of records and other corrupt activities. As a result the Indian [Central Adoption Resource Authority](#) (CARA) instituted an investigation and suspended Preet Mandir's operating licence in July 2006. Although this suspension was withdrawn in June 2007, the Indian Central Bureau of Investigation ("CBI", the federal police agency in India) is still conducting its investigations into the allegations and has not yet reported.



Consequently, CARA issued Preet Mandir with a "Recognition Certificate" dated 4 June 2007 allowing it to conduct operations for 6 months from that date, noting that the time frame is subject to a decision taken by CARA on the receipt of the CBI report. There are no guarantees that the operating licence will be reinstated after the completion of the 6 months. Clarification is being sought from the Court as to whether any allocations made from Preet Mandir during that period will be processed by the Court

Separate from these activities, new allegations surfaced in relation to Preet Mandir regarding child trafficking. These allegations resulted in the suspension in June 2007 of Denmark's adoption program with India. Media reports indicate that CARA undertook a preliminary investigation and found evidence which shows the allegations are not substantiated. No further reports have been obtained as to whether or not Denmark has responded to CARA's preliminary investigation.

The Department has not sent any files to Preet Mandir since June 2006 and has developed working relationships with other Indian adoption agencies. Subsequently allocations of 5 children for South Australian families have been received. This represents more allocations than were received from India in the 2005-06 financial year.

**AFIS staff news**

**Paola Alonso**

Many of you will have spoken to Paola Alonso who worked at reception at AFIS and who was also a member of the team that produces this newsletter. She has temporarily left AFIS to take up a promotion with Housing SA. We miss Paola because she is such a fun person and is a delightful member of our staff. The picture at right shows Paola (in pink) with her sister, Yamilla, who undertook 2 week's work experience at AFIS earlier in the year. Hugo Lines joined us in July to replace Paola.



**Hugo Lines**



We warmly welcome Hugo who is doing a great job and who hit the ground running! He recently finished his Public Service Traineeship which he completed at Parliament House. Hugo is a committed Christian whose interests include soccer, tennis and music (plays the drums). He has dabbled in studying journalism but is more interested in becoming a social worker in the future. He loves it at AFIS and reckons this is the best job he has ever had. Hugo is an excellent addition to our staff and in particular to the AFIS intercountry adoption newsletter team. He is very helpful and resourceful and has developed a keen interest in adoption since coming to AFIS. He will be staying with us until November.

**Chris Campbell**

Chris Campbell recently has taken up the position of Social Work Supervisor following Jan Hutchinson moving to the Child Protection Directorate of Families SA in July. He was the AFIS Senior Social Worker previous to this and came to us from Correctional Services after a long period, having worked in Families SA prior to that. Chris also has valuable overseas social work experience working in child protection. He is passionate about working in the adoption field and is looking forward to his new role of Supervisor and working with families in the adoption process.



**New weekly adoption playgroup**

A new weekly adoption playgroup for 0-5 year olds has started in Adelaide. Each week the group will meet in a specific location in metropolitan Adelaide.

<b>Weekly Adoption Support Playgroup - 0930am. Dates and locations listed below.</b>	
Children are invited to come and play and parents are invited for support and a friendly chat.	
Playgroups will be in various parks in Central Adelaide. All Welcome!	
For further details contact Vanessa on 0421 727 725 or <a href="mailto:vanessaandbrian@gmail.com">vanessaandbrian@gmail.com</a> or just turn up!	
<b>September</b>	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Marshmallow Playground, Glen Osmond Road, Adelaide
20 <sup>th</sup>	Glover Playground, LeFevre Terrace, North Adelaide
27 <sup>th</sup>	East Terrace Playground, Adelaide

## DFC library move

The Department for Families and Communities Library and Information Service, previously located on Grenfell Street moved to the rear of the North Terrace level in the DFC Riverside Centre. If you want to personally access the Library, **please ring there first on 841 39028**. AFIS clients are the ONLY DFC clients that have access to the Library as it is set up for internal use. However, we have negotiated for you to access the Library through use of borrower cards available through AFIS. If you don't have your card, please contact us on 8207 0060 or [adoptions@dfc.sa.gov.au](mailto:adoptions@dfc.sa.gov.au) and we will send one out to you.

[The DFC Library catalogue can be accessed through the DFC website.](#)

## Shenanigans at AFIS

See if you can guess who wore which slippers one cold day at AFIS this winter! The answer is on the last page!



## Indian Family and Friends Day



### Indian Family & Friends Day

**When** – Saturday October 6th beginning 11.30am

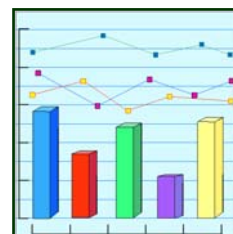
**Where** – Mitcham Primary School. The School is situated on Hillview Road, Kingswood (between Fullarton Road and Unley Road)

We have the use of the Schools Gymnasium and Oval. There is also a great bike track if you wish to bring children's bikes. Feel free also to bring balls, bats etc for play! There is a \$2.00 fee per family to cover the cost of venue hire. RSVP by 30th September. The day is open to anyone with an Indian connection. Family and friends welcome. For further information please contact Fiona Thorogood – Phone 87394276 or Email [dfgood@bigpond.com](mailto:dfgood@bigpond.com). JoAnne Duffield – Phone 86362152 or Email [jmduffield@westnet.com.au](mailto:jmduffield@westnet.com.au). Janet Redman – Phone 83253858 or Email [ajredm@iprimus.com.au](mailto:ajredm@iprimus.com.au). Helen Edwards – Phone 83443278 or Email [leayoda@e-access.com.au](mailto:leayoda@e-access.com.au).

## AFIS statistics

### Overseas timeframes

The timeframes are generally extending for people who are approved as prospective adoptive parents and are awaiting the allocation of a child – that particular part of the application process is longer than it was previously. Two years ago South Australia had just over 100 applications in overseas countries and now we have over 150.



### Local timeframes

The average time it takes from the point that people express an interest in adoption (the first formal step in the adoption process) to the time a decision is made about their application (to be approved as prospective adoptive parents or the application rejected) has reduced over the last few years. The table below shows the changes in these statistics:

<b>For people who expressed an interest in the calendar year:</b>	<b>The average time to approval decision regarding registration as prospective adoptive parents is:</b>
2002	306 days (about 10 months)
2003	324 days
2004	300 days
2005	266 days
2006	231 days (about 7 and a half months)

Of course people who expressed an interest in adoption and then withdrew or did not proceed further are not included in these figures.

### Family compositions

About half the families who were placed with children in 06/07 had no other children in their family. About a third of the families already had adopted child(ren) only in their families. The rest of the children were placed with families who had only biological children or both biological and adopted children.

## Impact of China changes

Since the new criteria for adopting from China came into effect in May this year there has been a decrease in the number of people beginning the process to adopt from China, due to the inability to meet China's criteria.

## Overall timeframes

The extending timeframes for intercountry adoption is occurring in other States and Territories as well as other receiving countries around the world. In SA it can be illustrated by this longitudinal analysis:

*Of the people who began the adoption process in the 01/02 financial year, 70% had been placed with a child by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2005.*

*Of the people who began the adoption process in the 02/03 financial year, 59% had been placed with a child by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2006.*

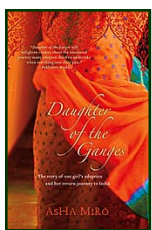
*Of the people who began the adoption process in the 03/04 financial year, 49% had been placed with a child by 30<sup>th</sup> June 2007.*

We know that it is really difficult for people the longer and more unpredictable the overseas timeframes become. We hope that your contact with your country program coordinator and our regular updates about the country from which you are applying to adopt are helpful. One of the best kinds of support that is available is from people who understand what it is like to take the adoption journey, so we strongly encourage you to make links with the parent support groups associated with your country of interest. The [2007 directory of the Joint Adoption Support Groups is available on the AFIS website](#). This contains the names and contact details of all the support groups currently active in South Australia.

## Books

Some new books have just arrived in the AFIS Library (as distinct from the DFC Library). If you are interested in browsing our Library or borrowing the following books, please contact Margaret Foster on 8207 0060.

### Daughter of the Ganges: The Story of One Girl's Adoption and Her Return Journey to India by Asha Miro

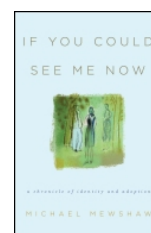


Growing up in an Indian orphanage, Asha Miró dreamed that someday she would be adopted. At the age of six, her wish finally came true, but only at the misfortune of another. A Catalan family was in the process of adopting twins when one of the children suddenly fell ill and died - a twist of fate that led the family to adopt Asha instead. Leaving a life of poverty behind, Asha was given a second chance. Twenty-one years later, Asha takes a heart-wrenching trip back to India to uncover her native roots. Full of unexpected encounters, this adventure informs and touches Asha beyond her expectations. She visits her old orphanage, speaks with her former caretakers, explores the land that she might not have ever left, and comes to form a more solid identity. Yet

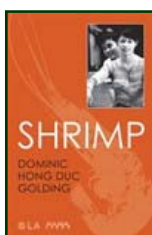
one trip is not enough. Eight years later she returns, this time visiting the small rural village where she was born. While uncovering the details behind her adoption, Asha discovers the only living member of her immediate Indian family: a sister she never knew she had. ([From publishers Simon and Shuster](#))

### If You Could See Me Now: A Chronicle of Identity and Adoption by Michael Mewshaw

When Michael Mewshaw receives a call from a stranger who says she has reason to believe he is her biological father, Mewshaw realizes he has been half dreading, half hoping for this to happen for over thirty years. Just like the young woman who wants to find the last piece to the puzzle of her life, he thinks it's possible that in the same process he will discover the answer to questions that have plagued him for decades. But first he has to make sure that she is who she claims to be. In this fascinating memoir, Mewshaw confronts his own past, the chaos of his family, and complicated memories of the woman he once loved who went on to success as an ambassador, Under Secretary of State and a member of one of America's most influential families. His unusual role in the baby's birth, her adoption and, now, her search for her biological parents sets the stage for a revealing personal odyssey that offers a quest for identity and a journey of discovery, an obsession with recapturing the past and righting old wrongs, the constant potential for disappointment balanced against the possibility of redemption. As he finds his old flame and her old lover, rediscovering who he was and who he has become, he finds his life enriched in the process. ([From the publisher Unbridled Books](#))



### Shrimp: A Play Scrip by Dominic Hong Duc Golding



Vietnamese war-baby Dominic Hong Duc Golding was airlifted out of Saigon at the end of the Vietnam War and adopted into an Australian family in Mount Gambier. In 1999, he returned to Vietnam for his own tour of duty. Reflecting upon his rural upbringing and the chaos of Saigon, the partially-hearing impaired (due to mortar fire) Dom tries to reconcile his battle over footy, fish sauce and finding himself. A co-production by La Mama and Melbourne Workers Theatre, *Shrimp* is a tour de force theatrical autobiography, taking us to the streets of war-torn Saigon, the wet pastures of Mount Gambier and the varied landscapes of modern Vietnam where Dom returns to find his family. ([From the publisher Currency Press](#))



## Fostering and adoption

After we sent you information about fostering, some people made enquiries and began the process of applying to be foster parents. This is great news for South Australian children who need a safe and loving family while they are unable to be with their own family. (If you would like to see that information again, just [click here](#) or on the graphic to be taken to our website).



To help people who are applying to adopt and who also would like to be foster parents, a system has been set up between Families SA and Anglicare (which recruits and trains foster carers), to use certain information from people's adoption application files to save duplicating things in the fostering application process. This is done with the permission of the people involved. Since we started this process, some people have chosen to do short term foster care during the waiting periods in the adoption process. Some others have been placed with long term foster children and have decided not to proceed with their adoption.

If you have a current adoption application, please be very sure to let AFIS know if you have decided to apply to become foster parents so we can discuss the best options about fostering which will fit with your adoption plans.

## Upcoming AFIS seminars for the rest of 2007

AFIS has a number of seminars still to come in 2007. We strongly encourage you to attend as many of these as you can as they are of great benefit to both you and ultimately, your adopted child. Experienced parents and staff have found them to be very helpful and informative. The next seminars are:

2007 EDUCATION CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR SEMESTER TWO <small>(for further detail refer to attached information)</small>		
<small>Government of South Australia Department for Families &amp; Communities</small>		
<small>Bookings for all sessions <a href="#">email AFIS</a> or phone 8207 0060 For further information <a href="#">Meredith</a> 8207 0060</small>		
Month	Monday Evenings Time: 7:30 pm	Saturday Mornings Time: 9:30 am
September	17 <sup>th</sup> - <a href="#">For Your Extended Family Members</a>	15 <sup>th</sup> - <a href="#">What's Normal Anyway</a> (0-3 years)
	24 <sup>th</sup> - <a href="#">Biological &amp; Adopted Children Panel</a>	
October	8 <sup>th</sup> - <a href="#">Positive Behaviour Management Workshop 1</a>	27 <sup>th</sup> - <a href="#">Developmental Milestones</a> (3-8 years)
	22 <sup>nd</sup> - <a href="#">Positive Behaviour Management Workshop 2</a>	
November	19 <sup>th</sup> - <a href="#">Dad's Business</a> (waiting dads)	
December		8 <sup>th</sup> - <a href="#">The Importance of Play</a>

### Time:

Monday seminars are at 7:30pm;  
Saturdays at 9:30am

### Venue:

All seminars are held at Relationships Australia Inc  
49a Orsmond Street, Hindmarsh

RSVP to: [adoptions@dfc.sa.gov.au](mailto:adoptions@dfc.sa.gov.au)

### Enquiries:

Meredith du Caine, Ph: 8207 0060

*(Click on the graphic for an enlargement)*

Schedule available at:

[www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/adoptions/AFIS\\_2007\\_Education\\_Workshops\\_Calendar\\_at\\_Jun07.doc](http://www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/adoptions/AFIS_2007_Education_Workshops_Calendar_at_Jun07.doc)

## Launch of Post Care Services



Post Care Services Team (L to R):  
Dorothy Salagaras, Julie Bagnall, Greg Rowley, Melanie Bradley, Sandra Lopreta

Brave and inspiring are the first words that spring to mind when describing the care leavers who spoke at the official launch in July of Families SA Transitioning and Post Care Services. 'Brave' for sharing their stories of life in state care before a wide audience, including Families and Communities Minister Jay Weatherill. 'Inspiring' for putting into words the trials and tribulations that they had been through and how services such as the Youth Support Teams (Transitioning Services) and Post Care Services, had been vital to them in offering assistance. Minister Weatherill officially launched the new and expanded services for those in the process of leaving or those who had left the state's care system. A new information, advocacy, referral and support service called Post Care Services, has also been set up for older care leavers, aged 18 years and over, who were previously in care and whose transition to adulthood may not have been ideal. It is co-located with and under the management of AFIS.

## Shenanigans at AFIS – the answer

### Left to right:

May-Mae Khoo (Business Support Officer)  
Jan Hutchinson (Social Work Supervisor to July 2007)  
Deanna Hosking (Social Worker)  
Cynthia Beare (Manager)  
Paola Alonso (Reception)  
Melanie Bradley (Team Leader, Post Care Services).

