

FACT SHEET

Adoption Victoria Expression of Interest List

Introduction

In order to meet the needs of the children who require adoption, from time to time Adoption Services will invite people to apply to be assessed as fit and proper persons to adopt a child. Invitations are extended to people who have read the Adoption Victoria Information Kit and expressed their interest to be considered by completing and submitting the Adoption Victoria Questionnaire. The questionnaire seeks information to ensure interested people:

- a. meet the eligibility criteria to adopt a child in Victoria or overseas; and
- b. understand and can meet the needs of adopted children.

More information about the needs of adopted children can be found on our website at <https://www.justice.vic.gov.au/your-rights/adoption/needs-of-adopted-children>.

When issuing invitations to apply, Adoption Victoria considers three factors, based on the best interests of the children who require placement for adoption.

People who are most likely to be able to support the welfare and interest of the widest variety of children

Adoption Victoria will seek applications from people who are able to support the range of needs that are common amongst the children who require adoption. For this reason, we ask that you submit your interest by first reading the Adoption Victoria Information Kit and then completing the attached Adoption Victoria Questionnaire. The questionnaire covers the adoption needs of children born in Victoria and born in an overseas country (intercountry adoption). You may submit your interest in one or both programs simultaneously by filling in and submitting the questionnaire. Please ensure that you read the information on the website and in the attached Information Kit thoroughly, so you are aware of the requirements for each program.

Diversity of possible adoptive parents

In Victoria, when a parent consents to the adoption of their child, they are often involved in the selection of the family that will adopt that child. The Adoption Act allows a parent to express a wish for the child to be adopted by someone of a particular religious or ethnic background. Parents may also express wishes in relation to specific characteristics relating to the background of the applicants, the location of the family home, occupations, values and many other variables that may be significant for the birth parent/s. Sometimes, families who have submitted their questionnaire may be invited to submit an application for assessment, in order to increase the diversity of the register of approved adoption applicants thereby increasing the ability to meet the expressed wishes.

Prioritised applications

Sometimes a person will apply to adopt who:

- has already been approved to be a Permanent Carer of a child/ren;
- has experience as a foster carer; or
- has been approved to adopt in another Australian State or Territory.

While such applications still require assessment for approval, the process can be significantly truncated and such applications may be prioritised, subject to consent for Adoption Victoria to access all previous assessments and documentation.

Next steps

If you wish to express your interest, please download the questionnaire to your computer, complete it electronically by typing in your responses, then sign as instructed and return the completed document preferably by email to: adoptionvic@justice.vic.gov.au

Alternatively, you can post it to Adoption Victoria at:

PO Box 588, Collins Street West, VIC 8007

Once Adoption Victoria has received your questionnaire, we will send you an email confirmation of receipt and you will be contacted by our program staff to advise whether you are eligible to be placed on the Expression of Interest List and / or to discuss alternatives that may be available to you.

From time to time, there may be changes to our program and the needs of children requiring adoption. Prospective applicants are advised to check the Adoption Victoria website regularly to stay informed of these changes.

To ensure prospective applicants are able to meet the needs of adopted children, Adoption Victoria requires people who have been on the Expression of Interest list for two years to submit an updated questionnaire. This process allows prospective applicants to confirm their ongoing interest in the program as well as advising Adoption Victoria of any changes to their circumstances and / or preferences.

*Please note that we prefer questionnaires sent via email as this will expedite the process.