



MEDIA RELEASE

SENATOR CLAIRE MOORE
SHADOW MINISTER FOR WOMEN
SHADOW MINISTER FOR CARERS
SHADOW MINISTER FOR COMMUNITIES
SENATOR FOR QUEENSLAND

SENATOR CAROL BROWN
SHADOW PARLIAMENTARY SECRETARY FOR FAMILIES
AND PAYMENTS
LABOR SENATOR FOR TASMANIA

**ADOPTION PRACTICES MUST PRIORITISE THE BEST INTERESTS OF
CHILDREN**

Labor acknowledges a [new report from the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#) confirming Australia's adoption rate is declining.

Labor is committed to the right of every child to a safe, happy and healthy childhood.

That is why in government Labor led the development of the *National Framework for Protecting Australia's Children 2009-2020* and the first and second Action Plans under the National Framework.

The National Framework outlines our commitment to supporting families to give children the best start in life and working to protect children at risk from disadvantage and abuse.

Labor's leadership helped deliver significant achievements, including the establishment of the first National Children's Commissioner and the development of National Standards for Out-Of-Home Care.

Despite significant efforts by governments and non-government organisations, it is clear that addressing abuse and neglect and improving outcomes for children and young people in out-of-home care is going to take ongoing collaboration and reform.

Labor has welcomed the long awaited release of the Third Action Plan to protect Australia's children.

The best interests of children must be the primary consideration in these matters, which can include a range of permanency options including adoption, guardianship and reunion.

Labor believes it is important to balance any adoption decisions with the lessons learned from adoption practices that have occurred in Australia in the past.

This includes a children's rights to transparency of knowledge of their identity.

The Australian Institute of Family Studies, National Research Study on the [Service Response to Past Adoption Practices](#) clearly reveals the impacts of past adoption practices have been significant and far-reaching for many Australians.

Labor has a strong record on adoption which includes improving the safety, accountability and efficiency of the process of inter-country adoption.

Labor also established in 2008 Australia's first National Peak Overseas Adoption Support Group which was committed to reducing the bureaucratic barriers to intercountry adoption, while always ensuring the interests of the child are put first.

WEDNESDAY, 17 DECEMBER 2015

MEDIA CONTACT: MEREDITH HORNE 0408 599 800 (MOORE)

SUE BAILEY 0417 550 279 (BROWN)