

**INQUIRY INTO RESPONSES TO HISTORICAL FORCED ADOPTIONS IN  
VICTORIA**

**Organisation:** Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

**Date Received:** 3 February 2020



Ms Yuki Simmonds  
Committee Manager  
Legislative Assembly, Legal and Social Issues Committee  
Parliament House  
Spring Street  
EAST MELBOURNE VIC 3002  
email: [forcedadoptionsinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au](mailto:forcedadoptionsinquiry@parliament.vic.gov.au)

Dear Ms Simmonds

### **Inquiry into support services and responses to historical forced adoption**

The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) welcomes the opportunity to provide a submission to the Parliament of Victoria's Legal and Social Issues Committee (the Committee) inquiry into support services and responses to historical forced adoption.

The AIHW is a nationally recognised independent information management agency. Our mission is to provide authoritative information and statistics to promote better health and wellbeing. The AIHW provides accessible information and statistics on a wide range of topics about Australians' health and wellbeing.

The Adoptions Australia national collection (the collection) held by the AIHW contains data on adopted children, their adoptive families and parents, as well as information on some administrative aspects of adoption, such as information on the number of contact/information requests and vetoes lodged by parties to an adoption. Data are collected on intercountry, local and known child adoptions.

The collection was initially developed in 1993. The annual report series, Adoptions Australia, started when the AIHW took over national reporting on adoptions in 1993, with data coverage under the collection including all years from 1990–91 onwards. Before this, national adoptions data were collected and reported (briefly) by 2 other organisations: the National Working Party on Welfare Statistics (Australia) (from 1987–88 to 1989–90) and the Australian Bureau of Statistics (from 1979–80 to 1984–85). No national data were collected in 1985–86 and 1986–87, resulting in a break in trend data for these years. Data are supplied annually by state and territory authorities with responsibility for adoption.

Since the coverage of the collection commenced in 1990–91, data on the historical period of interest to the current inquiry are not available. Comparable data have been collated from earlier collections, allowing limited trend data from 1968–69 to 2018–19 to be provided, along with more detailed data on years covered by the collection. **Attachment 1** provides further information on adoption trends in Australia. **Attachment 2** provides more detailed data.

A number of tables containing data on recent adoption practices have also been included to provide contemporary adoptions context that may be useful to the Committee (**Attachment 2**). These tables contain data on:

- Access to information including vetoes and applications for information by adults who were party to an adoption

- Agreements on contact and information exchange at the time of an adoption order
- Indigenous adoptions
- Parental consent to an adoption.

Two other limitations of the collection should be noted. The collection currently consists of aggregate tables. This limits the questions that can be asked about these data post collection to those answerable by the collection tables. Further, it prevents the collection from being able to be linked to other potentially informative data assets. This latter limitation is particularly relevant to the lack of current national data on adoption services and supports.

The AIHW is unable to provide information on how adoptees and adoptive families fare after an adoption is finalised. This is because it is difficult to identify an adoptee in administrative data, as they are legally not different from a child still living with their non-adoptive parent(s), and there are rarely requirements for adoptees to report their adoptive status as part of demographic data collected by services. This makes gathering data on access to supports by adoptees and their adoptive families difficult. For the same reasons, the long-term outcomes of adoption (such as rates of disruption or levels of educational attainment) are difficult to ascertain.

In November 2018, the House of Representatives Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs Inquiry into Local Adoption tabled its report *Breaking barriers: a national adoption framework for Australian children - Inquiry into local adoption*. In recognising the importance of evidence-based decision making, the Committee made a number of recommendations. Key among these is that the Adoptions Australia national collection should be upgraded from its current aggregate data table supply arrangement to a unit record collection. In its response, the Australian Government gave in-principle support to this recommendation in September 2019. This enhancement would mean that data linkage could be undertaken to explore a range of short- and long-term outcomes of adoption. Such a transition is dependent on the renegotiation of existing relationships for data supply between the AIHW and relevant Commonwealth, state and territory agencies, and on the capacity of all parties to develop the necessary supporting infrastructure for data collection, provision and reporting.

We trust that you find this information useful to your inquiry. Should the committee have any queries about the information we have provided, or wish to seek additional information from the AIHW, we are available to discuss these matters at your convenience. Please contact Dr Indrani Pieris-Caldwell, Head, Child Welfare Unit [REDACTED]

Yours sincerely

[REDACTED]

Barry Sandison  
Chief Executive Officer

31 January 2020

# Attachment 1: Relevant data and information from the Adoptions Australia national data collection

The Adoptions Australia national data collection (the collection) contains data on adoptions by Australians back to 1990–91. The state and territory departments responsible for adoption provide data to the AIHW annually, at the end of each financial year. Data are collected through a series of aggregate collection tables and in adherence to nationally agreed definitions and technical data standards.

Updated data are released annually in the AIHW's Adoptions Australia publication. Data from the collection are expected to be published in December of the final year of the reference period (that is, within 6 months after the end of each financial year).

The reference period for the latest report, *Adoptions Australia 2018–19*, was 1 July 2018 to 30 June 2019. The data set includes information related to all intercountry, local and known child adoption orders finalised during this period. It also includes limited information on child placements with adoptive families prior to a finalised adoption order that took place during this period, parties seeking to access adoption records during that period, and adoption vetoes.

*Adoptions Australia 2018–19* was released on 13 December 2019. The report is accessible for free through the AIHW website, [www.aihw.gov.au](http://www.aihw.gov.au).

## Trends in the number of finalised adoptions (1968–2019)

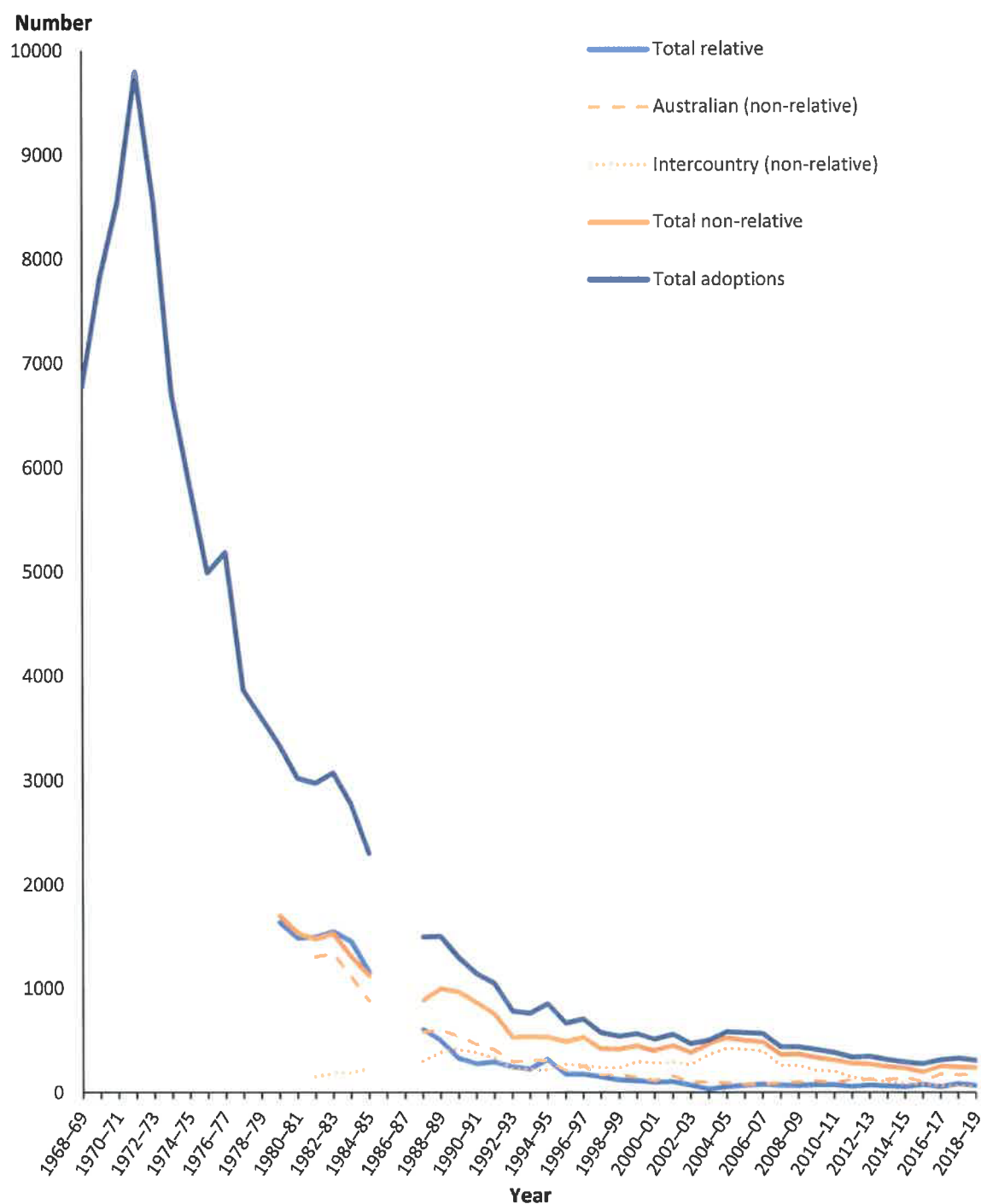
Since 1998–99, reporting of adoptions in Australia has used 3 nationally agreed categories:

- **Intercountry adoptions** are adoptions of children from countries other than Australia who are legally able to be placed for adoption (see [Section 2.2 of Adoptions Australia 2018–19](#) report), but generally have had no previous contact or relationship with the adoptive parent(s). Intercountry adoptions include adoptions from countries with which Australia has an official adoption program, and are referred to in this report as either 'Hague' or 'bilateral'.
- **Local adoptions** are adoptions of children born or permanently living in Australia before the adoption, who are legally able to be placed for adoption, but generally have had no previous contact or relationship with the adoptive parent(s).
- **Known child adoptions** are adoptions of children born or permanently living in Australia before the adoption, who have a pre-existing relationship with the adoptive parent(s), and are generally not able to be adopted by anyone other than the adoptive parent(s). Known child adoptions include adoptions by step-parents, other relatives, and carers such as foster parents.

Prior to the commencement of data under the current national collection in 1990–91, earlier national collections of adoptions data can be used to explore longer-term trends in the number of adoptions occurring in Australia. Data can generally be disaggregated into 'relative' and 'non-relative' categorisations. In this context, 'relatives' include adoptions by step-parents, other relatives such as grandparents, aunts and uncles and commissioning (surrogate) parents. 'Non-relatives' include adoptions by carers such as foster parents, other known child adoptions by non-relatives, local adoptions and adoptions of children from overseas (intercountry adoptions). However, prior to 1979–80 only the total number of officially recorded adoptions can be reported.

The available data show that the number of adoptions occurring in Australia has fallen substantially, from a peak of 9,798 adoptions recorded in 1971–72, to a low of 278 adoptions in 2015–16 (Figure A1.1).

**Figure A1.1: Relative and non-relative adoptions in Australia, 1968–69 to 2018–19**



**Notes**

1. In relation to this figure, 'Relatives' include adoptions by step-parents, other relatives such as grandparents, aunts and uncles and commissioning (surrogate) parents. 'Non-relatives' include adoptions by carers such as foster parents, other known child adoptions by non-relatives, local adoptions and adoptions of children from overseas (intercountry adoptions).
2. Limited information is available on the underlying data prior to 1981–82. Caution should therefore be exercised in the use of these data as the state of completeness and comparability is unknown.
3. Data are unable to be disaggregated into 'relative' and 'non-relative' categories prior to 1979–80.
4. No national data were collected for 1985–86 and 1986–87.

Source: Table A2.1.

During the most recent 25-year period (from 1994–95 to 2018–19), the number of overall domestic adoptions (that is, 'Local' and 'Known' child adoptions) of Australian children by relatives and non-relatives declined by 79% and 41%, respectively. The proportions of each type of adoptions fluctuated since the mid-1990s, however, the number of adoptions by non-relatives remained higher than adoptions by relatives in all but 2 of the 25 years. Of Australian children who had an adoption order finalised in 2018–19, 73% were adopted by non-relatives (Table A2.1; Figure A1.2).

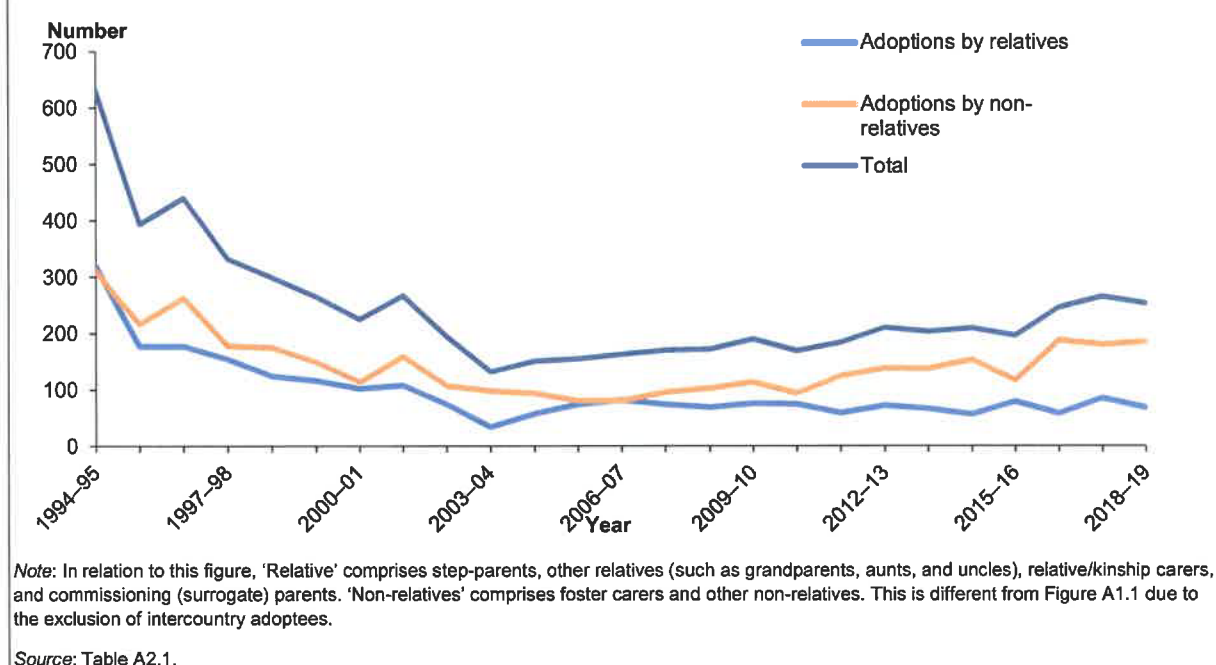
#### **Why have the number of domestic adoptions declined?**

The fall in the number of adoptions of Australian children can be attributed to changing views in Australian society that have altered the circumstances in which adoption might be considered appropriate. Social trends, such as declining fertility rates, the wider availability of effective birth control, increased support for single parents, and the emergence of family planning centres (ABS 2010) are likely to influence the number of Australian children in need of adoption.

Legislative changes introduced by state and territory governments over the past 25 years supporting a greater use of alternative legal orders also contributed to the decline. These orders, such as permanent care orders in Victoria that were introduced in 1992, transfer sole parental responsibility for a child to a person other than the parent (in most cases, to relatives or carers with whom the child is currently living), often replacing the need for adoption (see [Adoptions Australia Appendix A Section A.1](#)). Similarly, in Western Australia, protection orders (special guardianship) provide for parental responsibility to an individual, or 2 individuals jointly, for a child until the child turns 18 years old.

[Section 4.3 of Adoptions Australia 2018–19](#) provides data on long-term orders used in Australia. Commencing around 2012–13, where reunification with the family of origin was not appropriate, some jurisdictions, such as New South Wales, have increased the focus on adoption as a possible means of creating stability for children under the long-term care of state and territory child protection services. This, in turn, has resulted in an increase in known child adoptions by carers and an overall increase in domestic adoption numbers since 2015–16.

**Figure A1.2: Adoptions of Australian children, by relationship to adoptive parent(s), 1994–95 to 2018–19**



From 1998–99, adoptions of Australian children can be explored by categories of known child adoptions and local adoptions. Looking at a 20-year period from 1999–00 to 2018–19, the number of local adoptions gradually fell—from 106 in 1999–00 to 42 in 2018–19, with some fluctuations. In contrast, despite falling initially, the number of known child adoptions has increased since 2003–04, with a sharp rise seen in 2016–17 (Table A2.2; Figure A1.3).

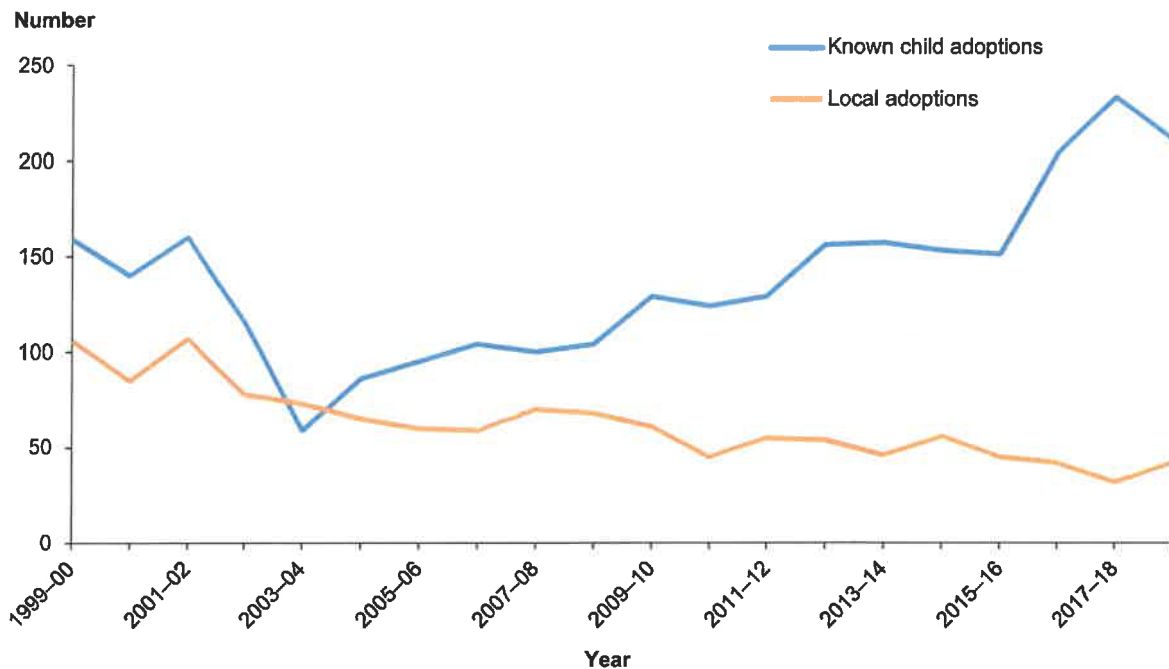
Between 2000–01 and 2018–19, the proportion of known child adoptions by step-parents fluctuated, peaking at 77% in 2000–01 and falling to a low of 28% in 2016–17. In 2018–19, step-parent adoptions accounted for 31% of known child adoptions (AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection).

The proportion of known child adoptions by step-parents is directly influenced by the increase in adoptions by carers such as foster parents towards the latter part of the 20-year period. With the exception of 2015–16, between 2011–12 and 2018–19, more carer adoptions were finalised than step-parent adoptions.

Although the number of known child adoptions by carers declined slightly between 2017–18 and 2018–19 (from 147 to 142), between 2008–09 and 2018–19, carer adoptions rose by 306% (AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection). [Section 1.2 Recent developments' of Adoptions Australia 2018–19](#) report provides some additional discussion of factors that have contributed to this rise.



**Figure A1.3: Adoptions of Australian children, by known child or local adoption, 1999–00 to 2018–19**



Source: Table A2.2.

## Access to information

There have been substantial changes since the 1980s to the Australian adoption laws that govern the way information about an adoption could be accessed, starting with the *Adoption Act 1984* in Victoria. Changes in Australian adoption procedures paralleled a shift in social attitudes—from adoptions being seen as providing a service for adults, to the wellbeing of children being paramount.

In 2018–19, all states and territories had legislation that granted certain information rights to adopted people aged 18 and over, and to their adoptive and birth families.

### Applications for information by adults who were party to an adoption

The number and distribution of applications in 2018–19 was broadly consistent with data from recent years:

- 2,691 information applications were made—92% of these for identifying information
- almost three-quarters (69%) of identifying information applications were made by adoptees, and 7% by birth parents
- 45% of non-identifying information applications were made by adoptees, and 6% by birth parents
- most adoptees seeking information were aged 45 and over (72%)
- more female adoptees (55%) lodged information applications than male adoptees (45%) (Tables A2.3 and A2.4).



## **Contact and identifying information vetoes relating to an adoption**

In some cases, a party to an adoption might wish to block contact or access to information by another party to the adoption. This occurs through the lodgement of a veto. In 2018–19, there were 2 types of vetoes recorded in national adoptions data in Australia:

1. **Identifying information vetoes** are used when a party to an adoption requested that identifying information not to be released to any other party to the adoption.
2. **Contact vetoes** are used to create a legal requirement for a person receiving identifying information not to contact the other party. A contact veto can be lodged even if information about an adoption is never requested. The person who lodged a contact or information veto can lift the veto.

Access to each veto type varied across states and territories. In some states and territories, vetoes are valid only for adoptions that occurred before a particular date, or last only a set amount of time before needing to be renewed.

In 2018–19, only 9 contact and identifying information vetoes were lodged during the year. Total number of vetoes in place at 30 June 2019 was 8,527. The majority of vetoes lodged or vetoes in place at 30 June were lodged by the adoptee (44% and 54% respectively). Birth mothers were the next highest percentage to lodge vetoes (33%) or have vetoes in place (37%) (Table A2.5).

While the number of contact and information vetoes lodged each year has fluctuated between 9 and 139 in the past 10 years, generally, a larger number of vetoes were lodged in the past (359 in 1993–94).

Likewise, fewer applications for information have been lodged in recent years—2,691 in 2018–19, compared with 6,252 in 1994–95 (Table A2.6).

## **Agreements on contact and information exchange at the time of an adoption order**

The secrecy associated with past adoption practices in Australia has largely given way to a system characterised by the open exchange of information between parties to an adoption, and focused on the needs of the child.

Although data are not currently available for all types of domestic adoption, agreements made at the time of adoption showed that the majority (88%) of local adoptions finalised in 2018–19 could be considered 'open'—that is, all parties agreed to allow a degree of contact or information exchange to occur between families (Table A2.7).

National data on the type of agreement for contact or information exchange for local adoptions began in 1998–99, when the local adoption category was introduced. From 1998–99 to 2018–19, open adoption arrangements were consistently the most common form of agreement (generally more than 80% of local adoptions finalised in each year) (Table A2.7).

## **Indigenous adoptions**

All states and territories have adopted the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Child Placement Principle in policy and practice. The AIHW does not have data that measure adherence to all aspects of this principle, with national data only recording the outcome of this decision making framework (namely characteristics of the family with whom the child is placed), but all placements of Indigenous children are to be in accordance with the placement principle.

The number of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children who are adopted each year is typically small. In 2018–19, 12 Indigenous children had adoption orders finalised in Australia, the highest number of finalised adoptions of Indigenous children in the past 25 years (equal to the number recorded in 1994–95).

All finalised adoptions of Indigenous children in 2018–19 were known child adoptions, where the adoptee had a pre-existing relationship with the adoptive parent(s), and were generally not able to be adopted by anyone other than the adoptive parent(s). That is, all 12 Indigenous children in 2018–19 were adopted by either their step-parent, another relative, or their carer. Of these children, 1 was adopted by Indigenous Australians, and 11 were adopted by other Australians (AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection).

Since 1994–95, half (63) of all adopted Indigenous children were adopted through local adoptions and half (63) were adopted through known child adoptions. While those children adopted through known child adoptions had a pre-existing relationship with their adoptive parents and generally would not have been able to be adopted by anyone other than their adoptive parents, those in local adoptions had no pre-existing relationship.

Of the 63 Indigenous children adopted through local adoption in the past 25-years, 35 (56%) entered adoptive families where at least 1 of the adoptive parents identified as Indigenous (Table A2.8).

## **Parental consent to an adoption**

Legislation governing domestic adoptions in states and territories requires that, in most instances, consent for adoption be received from both parents, or that there are grounds for dispensation of 1 or both parents' consent. Dispensation of consent is usually provided by the relevant court in each state/territory in circumstances where the parent(s) cannot be found, where the parent(s) are unable to give consent themselves, or where there is a history of abuse that has led to the child being removed from their care for an extended period.

For more than half (57%) of local adoptions finalised in 2018–19, consent for the adoption was given by the mother only. For 38%, both parents provided consent for the adoption. In 5% of cases consent of both parents was either dispensed with or not required (Table A2.9). For adoptions by known carers such as foster parents finalised in 2018–19, consent from both parents occurred in only 6% cases. Consent from only the birth mother was given in 9% of cases, and consent was given by the birth father only in 6% of cases. For 78% of adoptions by carers, consent of both parents for the adoption was dispensed or not required (Table A2.9).

## Attachment 2: Data tables

**Table A2.1: Relative and non-relative adoptions in Australia, 1968–69 to 2018–19**

Year	Relative	Non-relative			Total
	(Australian)	Australian	Intercountry	All	(Relative & Non-relative)
1968–69	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6,773
1969–70	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	7,820
1970–71	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,553
1971–72	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	9,798
1972–73	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	8,542
1973–74	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	6,705
1974–75	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,839
1975–76	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	4,990
1976–77	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	5,188
1977–78	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,867
1978–79	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	3,603
1979–80	1,637	n.a.	n.a.	1,700	3,337
1980–81	1,484	n.a.	n.a.	1,534	3,018
1981–82 <sup>(a)</sup>	1,494	1,311	162	1,473	2,971
1982–83	1,548	1,336	188	1,524	3,072
1983–84 <sup>(a)</sup>	1,452	1,108	197	1,305	2,770
1984–85 <sup>(a)</sup>	1,157	888	235	1,123	2,294
1985–86	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1986–87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1987–88 <sup>(a)(b)</sup>	605	578	308	886	1,494
1988–89 <sup>(a)</sup>	500	606	394	1,000	1,501
1989–90	327	547	420	967	1,294
1990–91	277	472	393	865	1,142
1991–92 <sup>(a)(c)</sup>	295	418	338	756	1,052
1992–93 <sup>(c)</sup>	250	306	227	533	783
1993–94 <sup>(c)</sup>	228	314	222	536	764
1994–95	320	311	224	535	855
1995–96	177	217	274	491	668
1996–97	177	263	269	532	709
1997–98	154	178	245	423	577
1998–99	124	175	244	419	543
1999–00	116	149	301	450	566
2000–01 <sup>(a)</sup>	102	114	289	403	514
2001–02	108	159	294	453	561
2002–03 <sup>(a)</sup>	74	107	278	385	472
2003–04	34	98	370	468	502
2004–05	57	94	434	528	585
2005–06	74	81	421	502	576
2006–07	82	81	406	487	569
2007–08	74	96	270	366	440
2008–09	69	103	269	372	441
2009–10	76	114	223	337	413

(continued)

**Table A2.1 (continued): Relative and non-relative adoptions in Australia, 1968–69 to 2018–19**

Year	Relative	Non-relative		All	Total (Relative and Non-Relative)
	(Australian)	Australian	Intercountry		
2010–11	75	94	217	311	386
2011–12	59	125	157	282	341
2012–13	72	138	138	276	348
2013–14	66	137	114	251	317
2014–15	56	153	83	236	292
2015–16	79	117	82	199	278
2016–17	58	188	69	257	315
2017–18	85	180	65	245	330
2018–19	68	185	57	241	310
<b>Total</b>					<b>108,768</b>

n.a. Not available.

(a) The relatives and non-relatives 'Total' for these years includes adoptions involving Australian children with an unknown relationship with the adoptive parent(s). As a result, numbers for subcategories might not add to the total.

(b) Victoria was unable to provide data on intercountry adoptions for 1987–88

(c) New South Wales was unable to provide data on adoptions by step-parents from 1991–92 to 1993–94.

**Notes**

1. 'Relatives' includes adoptions by step-parents, other relatives such as grandparents, aunts and uncles and commissioning (surrogate) parents. 'Non-relatives' includes adoptions by carers such as foster parents, other known child adoptions by non-relatives, local adoptions and adoptions of children from overseas (intercountry adoptions).
2. Limited information is available on the underlying data prior to 1981–82, caution should therefore be exercised in the use of these data as the state of completeness and comparability is unknown.
3. Data are unable to be disaggregated into 'relative' and 'non-relative' categorisations prior to 1979–80.
4. No national data were collected for 1985–86 and 1986–87.

Source: AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection.

**Table A2.2: Adoptions of Australian children, by known child or local adoption, 1999–00 to 2018–19**

Year	Known child adoptions	Local adoptions
1999–00	159	106
2000–01	140	85
2001–02	160	107
2002–03	116	78
2003–04	59	73
2004–05	86	65
2005–06	95	60
2006–07	104	59
2007–08	100	70
2008–09	104	68
2009–10	129	61
2010–11 <sup>(a)</sup>	124	45
2011–12	129	55
2012–13	156	54
2013–14	157	46
2014–15	153	56
2015–16	151	45
2016–17	204	42
2017–18	233	32
2018–19	211	42

(a) Interim adoption orders made by the Children's Court of Queensland are not captured in the local adoption data set. Under the *Adoption Act 2009* (Qld), which took effect in February 2010, a final adoption order is normally made at the successful completion of a supervised interim order that is completed over a 12-month period. This requirement has affected final adoption orders made in Queensland in 2010–11.

*Notes*

1. Changes to the categories of adoption introduced in 1998–99 limits the amount of trend data available for 'local' adoptions.

Source: AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection.

**Table A2.3: Adult adoptees who lodged information applications, by Indigenous status, age group, and sex, 2018–19**

Age group (years)	Indigenous Australians			Other Australians			Total			%
	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	Male	Female	Persons	
18–19	—	—	—	2	6	8	2	6	8	0.7
20–24	—	2	2	16	21	37	16	23	39	3.4
25–34	—	2	2	35	64	99	35	66	101	8.9
35–44	2	7	9	82	80	163	84	87	172	15.0
45+	21	21	42	357	417	774	378	438	816	71.7
Total <sup>(a)</sup>	23	32	55	494	589	1,084	517	621	1,139	100.0
Per cent <sup>(b)</sup>	41.8	58.2	4.8	45.6	54.4	95.2	45.4	54.6	100.0	100.0

— Zero.

(a) Total males, females, and persons include people of unknown age and/or sex.

(b) Percentages exclude 1 female and 2 male/s whose age was unknown, and 1 person whose sex was unknown.

*Notes*

1. Percentages might not add to 100%, due to rounding.
2. If Indigenous status was unknown, the person was included in the 'Other Australians' category.
3. New South Wales was unable to provide data for this table.

Source: AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection.

**Table A2.4: Information applications lodged, by person lodging application and information type, 2018–19**

Person lodging the application	Number	%
<b>Identifying information</b>		
Adoptee	1,706	69.1
Adoptive mother	2	0.1
Adoptive father	7	0.3
Birth mother	148	6.0
Birth father	32	1.3
Other birth relative(s)	221	9.0
Other adoptive relative(s)	67	2.7
Child of adoptee	251	10.2
Unknown	34	1.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,468</b>	<b>100.0</b>
<b>Non-identifying information</b>		
Adoptee	101	45.3
Adoptive mother	8	3.6
Adoptive father	11	4.9
Birth mother	9	4.0
Birth father	4	1.8
Other birth relative(s)	9	4.0
Other adoptive relative(s)	53	23.8
Child of adoptee	26	11.7
Unknown	2	0.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>223</b>	<b>100.0</b>

*Notes*

1. Percentages might not add to 100%, due to rounding.
2. Data predominantly relate to applicants who were party to a local adoption. Very few applicants were party to an intercountry adoption.

Source: AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection.



**Table A2.5: Vetoes lodged during 2018–19 or in place at 30 June 2019, by the person who lodged the veto**

Measure	Adoptee	Adoptive mother	Adoptive father	Birth mother	Birth father	Other birth relative	Other adoptive relative	Total
<b>Contact vetoes</b>								
Vetoes lodged during the year	2	—	—	1	—	—	—	3
%	66.7	..	..	33.3	..	..	..	100.0
Vetoes in place at 30 June	4,307	28	412	3,030	76	177	6	8,036
%	53.6	0.3	5.1	37.7	0.9	2.2	0.1	100.0
<b>Identifying information vetoes</b>								
Vetoes lodged during the year	2	2	—	2	—	—	—	6
%	33.3	33.3	..	33.3	..	..	..	100.0
Vetoes in place at 30 June	308	17	14	139	9	—	4	491
%	62.7	3.5	2.9	28.3	1.8	..	0.8	100.0
<b>Total</b>								
Vetoes lodged during the year	4	2	—	3	—	—	—	9
%	44.4	22.2	..	33.3	..	..	..	100.0
Vetoes in place at 30 June	4,615	45	426	3,169	85	177	10	8,527
%	54.1	0.5	5.0	37.2	1.0	2.1	0.1	100.0

— Zero.

.. Not applicable.

Note: Percentages might not add to 100%, due to rounding.

Source: AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection.

**Table A2.6: Number of information applications and vetoes lodged, 1994–95 to 2018–19**

Year	Applications for access to information lodged	Contact and information vetoes lodged
1994–95	6,252	584
1995–96	5,567	426
1996–97	4,455	259
1997–98	4,324	174
1998–99	5,430	174
1999–00	5,008	146
2000–01	4,304	113
2001–02	4,159	88
2002–03	3,744	137
2003–04	3,407	63
2004–05	3,414	56
2005–06	3,038	58
2006–07	2,851	80
2007–08	2,832	140
2008–09	3,607	52
2009–10	2,893	74
2010–11	2,951	108
2011–12	2,619	128
2012–13	2,690	139
2013–14	2,695	131
2014–15	2,602	66
2015–16	2,726	68
2016–17	2,755	81
2017–18	2,627	44
2018–19	2,691	9

*Notes*

1. Contact vetoes lodged do not necessarily relate directly to the information applications lodged. Contact vetoes may be lodged for adoptions for which information might never be requested.
2. Data for years before 1994–95 are included in previous years of the Adoptions Australia report.

Source: AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection.

**Table A2.7: Percentage of local adoptions, by type of agreement, 1998–99 to 2018–19**

Year	No contact or information exchange	Some contact and/or information exchange
1998–99	9.7	90.3
1999–00	8.1	91.9
2000–01	6.9	93.1
2001–02	6.3	93.7
2002–03	16.2	83.8
2003–04	6.8	93.2
2004–05	8.1	91.9
2005–06	5.0	95.0
2006–07	11.9	88.1
2007–08	22.9	77.1
2008–09	33.9	66.1
2009–10	8.3	91.7
2010–11	15.6	84.4
2011–12	5.5	94.5
2012–13	13.0	87.0
2013–14	10.9	89.1
2014–15	8.9	91.1
2015–16	11.1	88.9
2016–17	11.9	88.1
2017–18	6.3	93.8
2018–19	11.9	88.1

*Notes*

1. Percentages may not add to 100 due to rounding.
2. Percentages exclude 'unknown'.

*Source:* AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection.

**Table A2.8: Indigenous children adopted, by Indigenous status of adoptive parent(s) and type of adoption, 1994–95 to 2018–19**

Year	Known child adoption			Local adoption		
	Indigenous Australian	Other Australian	Total	Indigenous Australian	Other Australian	Total
1994–95 to 1998–99	2	—	2	15	16	31
1999–00 to 2003–04	2	5	7	4	4	8
2004–05 to 2008–09	7	2	9	11	4	15
2009–10 to 2013–14	4	17	21	2	2	4
2014–15 to 2018–19	2	22	24	3	2	5
<b>Total</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>63</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>63</b>
<b>%</b>	<b>27.0</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>55.6</b>	<b>44.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

— Zero.

*Notes*

1. Adoptive parents are included in the 'Indigenous Australian' category when at least 1 of the parents identified as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander. Where the Indigenous status of both parents was not known, the adoption was included in the 'Other Australian' category.
2. The Indigenous status of children and adoptive parent(s) is not always available for adult adoptees.
3. Known child adoptions by 'Other Australians' can include adoptions by step-parents, other relatives, and carers who are not Indigenous, but who have a pre-existing relationship with the adoptee that enables the adoption to occur.

Source: AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection.

**Table A2.9: Local and Carer (known child) adoptions, by type of consent, 2018–19**

Type of consent given	Local adoption		Carer (known child) adoption	
	Number	%	Number	%
From mother only <sup>(a)</sup>	24	57.1	13	9.2
From father only <sup>(b)</sup>	—	..	9	6.3
From both parents	16	38.1	9	6.3
Both parents' consent dispensed/not required	2	4.8	111	78.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>142</b>	<b>100.0</b>

— Zero.

.. Not applicable.

(a) Father's consent dispensed/not required.

(b) Mother's consent dispensed/not required.

Source: AIHW Adoptions Australia data collection.