



# Gay Dads Australia

a resource for gay dads and those  
who are thinking of becoming dads

## **Bans on Overseas Adoption by Same-Sex Couples. Whats Next?**

**Is the Federal Government close to reintroducing a ban on overseas adoption by same-sex couples?**

By Rod - Living & News Editor  
Posted Monday, August 14, 2006

The impending reintroduction of a ban on overseas adoption by same-sex couples could be due to appear in parliament soon.

The proposed Family Law (Same Sex Adoption) Bill would amend the Family Law Act to indicate "that adoptions by same-sex couples of children from overseas...will not be recognised in Australia".

While details of the bill were yet to be released, Tasmanian Gay Activist, Rodney Croome said it was no surprise the ban was on the cards once more. "The government has already introduced the relevant legislation and has repeatedly committed to it," he said, referring to the coalition's previous attempt to ban overseas adoption in mid-2004.



Attorney General, Mr Phillip Ruddock said "The government does not wish to leave itself exposed to a situation where a state or territory, for the purposes of making a political point domestically, would seek to prioritise same-sex couples ahead of heterosexual couples for the purposes of overseas adoption. "We don't believe that would be in Australia's best interests or the best interests of the child." He said the government believed it was best for children to have "the care and affection of both a mother and a father".

At present only WA and the ACT have passed legislation allowing same-sex couples to adopt, with the NSW government currently investigating legislative change.

"In view of the shortage of children available for adoption, the Australian government believes it is not simply a matter of leaving it to the states " who have no responsibility relating to immigration - to determine which children, and with which parents, will be able to enter Australia under our immigration arrangements."

At present only WA and the ACT have passed legislation allowing same-sex couples to adopt, with the NSW government currently investigating legislative change.

NSW Gay and Lesbian Rights Lobby co-convenor David Scamell said there were areas where the federal government could intervene in adoption, such as in family law and immigration.

Some gay and lesbian couples manage to adopt when one of the partners claims to be single, Scamell said, which results in only that person being legally recognised as a parent.

"As with all legislation regarding same-sex parenting, it's not preventing more and more gay and lesbian people from having children," Scamell said.



Where will all this end? As I quoted in another article is this another form of discrimination against same-sex couples? How far do we have to go to prove that we, as Gay or Lesbian people, are equal to our heterosexual counterparts. One minute there could be a ban on overseas adoption for same-sex couples, is there a chance that there could also be further discriminatory bans against us keeping pets?

I feel that you, the reader, should have a say or comment on this issue so if you do please send an email to [rodgenq@generationq.net](mailto:rodgenq@generationq.net) or [editor@queerplanet.com.au](mailto:editor@queerplanet.com.au)

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