



The Honourable Margaret Keech MP
Member for Albert



Queensland
Government

Our Reference: CSM06880

Minister for Child Safety
and Minister for Women

23 OCT 2008

Mr Neil Laurie
The Clerk of the Parliament
Legislative Assembly of Queensland
Parliament House
Corner Alice and George Streets
BRISBANE QLD 4000

Dear Mr Laurie *Neil*

Thank you for your letter of 28 August 2008 regarding the petition received by the Queensland Legislative Assembly number 1102-08. I note the petition concerns laws which prevent adopted adults from accessing identifying information and information about their family history and medical background, and requests that the current review of the *Adoption of Children Act 1964* include consideration of these laws.

On 14 July 2008, the Bligh Government announced that laws concerning the release of information about adoptions that occurred prior to June 1991 will be reviewed.

The Government has released the *Balancing Privacy and Access: Adoption Consultation Paper* which sets out options for providing people involved in adoptions that occurred prior to 1991 with the same access to information as people affected by adoptions that have occurred after 1991.

Access to information is a complex and sensitive issue and there are many considerations, especially around a person's right to privacy. There will be people who support the possibility of this information being made available, and others who do not. This is why the Government has sought feedback about the best way to balance the rights of people to access information about their family history, while maintaining the right to privacy.

The *Balancing Privacy and Access: Adoption Consultation Paper* is available online on the Department of Child Safety website www.childsafety.qld.gov.au. Signatories to the petition may also be interested in the *Future Adoption for Queensland Policy Paper*. This policy paper is also accessible on the Department's website.

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The closing date for feedback on the *Balancing Privacy and Access: Adoption Consultation Paper* was Friday, 19 September 2008. It is anticipated an Adoption Bill will be introduced into Parliament later this year. The Bill will address feedback received in response to the consultative paper. In addition, proposed new laws set out *Future Adoption for Queensland Policy Paper* will be incorporated into the Adoption Bill.

I trust this information is of assistance.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Margaret Keech". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Margaret Keech MP
Minister for Child Safety
and Minister for Women
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