

YOU CAN HELP

NAPCAN

PREVENT CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT

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Victorian Law Reform Commission
Level 3
333 Queen Street
Melbourne VIC 3000

Dear Commission,

Thank you for the invitation to respond to the review of Victoria's adoption laws.

NAPCAN's core focus and expertise is in relation to the primary prevention of child abuse and neglect, as opposed to tertiary responses after the event, such as adoption.

However, NAPCAN does support any changes to the judicial process where the best interests of the child are the focus of all decision making regarding their future care, this includes adoption. If it has been appropriately assessed that a child is unable to live with their family, adoption should be one option that is pursued as an alternative living arrangement for their future well-being.

NAPCAN's position is that any decision regarding adoption should include, wherever possible, consultation with the child or young person and their opinion and voice should be heard at all times throughout the process. If appropriate, a child's advocate should be appointed to help represent their views.

I congratulate the Victorian Government on the proposed amendments to the Adoption Act, which allows for a greater diversity of Victorian adults to adopt children.

Yours sincerely

A black rectangular redaction box covering the signature of Richard Cooke.

Richard Cooke
Chief Executive Officer
National Association for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect (NAPCAN)
14/09/2016