

For information
on 4 March 2004

Bills Committee on Adoption (Amendment) Bill 2003

Escorting Arrangements for Intercountry Adoptions

Purpose

This paper informs Members of the statistics relating to the escort arrangements for Hong Kong children to be placed for overseas adoption.

Background

2. At the meeting on 26 February 2004, Members requested information on, amongst others, :

- (a) statistics relating to the escort arrangements for Hong Kong children to be placed for overseas adoption; and
- (b) detailed escort arrangements to ensure that there is sufficient care for the prospective adoptive children.

Statistics

3. While there is no administrative requirement for prospective adoptive parents to come to Hong Kong to escort the child back to their homeland, we encourage the prospective adoptive parents to do so as far as possible. In fact, most of them do come to Hong Kong to escort their child back to their homeland. Escort services will only be provided by the NGOs in Hong Kong which are involved in the adoption arrangements¹ or others (such as social workers of the overseas agency and non-social workers of the Hong Kong agencies) if the prospective

¹ They are International Social Service – Hong Kong Branch and Mother's Choice.

adoptive parents cannot come to Hong Kong for various reasons such as work engagement.

4. Statistics² for the past four years at the Annex indicates that, on average, over 70% of the overseas prospective adoptive parents came to Hong Kong to escort the child to their homeland. Most of the remaining cases (18%) were escorted by social workers of the Hong Kong NGOs and a small percentage (9%) by others.

5. As regards the care for the prospective adoptive children, we have invited the International Social Service – Hong Kong Branch, one of the NGOs involved in intercountry adoptions, to attend the Bills Committee meeting on 4 March 2004 to present to Members the detailed arrangements for intercountry adoptions, in particular the care and attention rendered to the adoptive children in the process.

Presentation

6. Members may wish to take note of the contents of this information note.

Health, Welfare and Food Bureau
March 2004

² The statistics are compiled by the two NGOs involved in intercountry adoptions.

**Escort arrangement for children placed for overseas adoption
in the Past Four Years
(2000-01 to 2003-04)**

Year	Escort Arrangement ¹			Total
	Escorted by Prospective Adoptive Parents	Escorted by Social Workers of Hong Kong Agencies	Escorted by Others ²	
2000-01	25 (93%)	1	1	27
2001-02	16 (57%)	8	4	28
2002-03	10 (76%)	3	0	13
2003-04 (up to Jan 04)	9 (64%)	3	2	14
Total	60 (73%)	15 (18%)	7 (9%)	82 (100%)

¹ Receiving states of the escort services include the USA, Australia, Canada, UK and New Zealand.

² 'Others' may include social workers of the overseas agency and administrator/nurse/executive etc. of the Hong Kong agencies.