**Home Study Report for Intercountry Adoption**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Applicant 1**  | **Applicant 2** |
| **Name:** | Mr First Name/s LAST NAME | Ms/Mrs First Name/s LAST NAME |
| **Date of birth:** |  |  |
| **Country and place of birth***(as recorded on passport)***:** |  |  |
| **Ethnicity:** |  |  |
| **Citizenship:** |  |  |
| **Employment:** |  |  |
| **Employer:** |  |  |
| **Children:** | First Name/s LAST NAMEDate of birth:  | First Name/s LAST NAMEDate of birth: |
| **Home address:** | Unit/Flat Number, Street Number and Name, Suburb, Town/City, Postcode, NEW ZEALAND |
| **Telephone number** *(including country code)***:** | +64  | +64 |
| **Email address:** |  |  |

**Training dates:**

Adoption Education and Preparation Programme – Day 1:

Adoption Education and Preparation Programme – Day 2:

Intercountry Adoption Preparation Workshop:

**Interview dates:**

**Applying to adopt from (*country*):**

**Introduction:**

Provide a brief outline of the application. State what country they wish to adopt from and if using an accredited agency to facilitate the adoption. State what age range they are approved for and a brief summary of child/children they would consider adopting. Include whether specific child/ren are the subject of this application, and if so, give brief details of the applicants’ actual relationship and/or contact with the child/ren.

**Family history:**

For each applicant in turn (keeping the same order thereafter), state where each was born, in urban or rural areas, and moves, if significant. State parents’ names and employment. State their siblings and order of birth. Briefly describe their early upbringing, with particular attention to attachment patterns within the family and how they have understood their parents to help them develop and achieve their potential. Describe present contact and relationships with the wider families.

**Education:**

Detail education and qualifications held by each including where they studied and when graduated. If still studying, give details of the study being undertaken and the reasons for undertaking it. Comment on the applicants’ attitudes to education for their children.

**Employment:**

Explain each applicant's current employment and general trend in employment history. Comment on the stability of the applicant's current position and on their aspirations and employment plans, if appropriate. Note any features about the employment such as shift-work or travel requirements which may impact on the proposed adoption. Note the applicant’s ability to take time off work to stay at home with the child/ren after the adoption.

**Previous relationships (if any):**

Has either applicant had any previous marriage or significant relationship and were there any children, including stepchildren, in these relationships? If so, comment on the current relationship with them.

**Marriage:**

Give details of when and where the applicants were married. Comment on their relationship, including sharing responsibilities, how they have accommodated to each other's differences and their ways to resolve conflicts.

**Personalities:**

Comment on the personalities of each applicant. What do their referees and others say about them? What do they say about themselves? How do these descriptions fit in with your own observations and impressions? If there are any children in the family, comment on the applicants' understanding of their individual personalities.

**Recreational interests:**

Give details of the applicants’ and family's recreational interests. What is their level of involvement? How are activities supported by other family members?

**Religion and values:**

Describe the applicants’ religious affiliations, if any, and the strength and nature of their commitment to that faith. It is not appropriate to indicate that the applicants are willing to bring a child up in a faith they do not practise themselves. Whether or not they are affiliated to a religion, the applicants’ guiding principles – the ethics that they live by will be relevant to their application and are important to be stated. Comment on the values they wish to role model to their child/ren.

**Health:**

State that a medical report was received from their GP, name of GP and date to be included. Comment on if the GP believes the applicants are in good physical and mental health. Describe health and lifestyle and the state of health of each of the applicants and of their children, if any. If a family member suffers from a particular condition or syndrome, describe how it specifically affects the functioning of the particular sufferer, and how the family copes with it. Comment on the prognosis for the sufferer and how this might affect any proposed adoption.

**Psychological assessment:**

State the date of assessment, psychologist, qualifications. Briefly summarise the psychologist’s opinion and recommendation regarding the applicants’ mental health and psychological functioning.

Comment on general findings of the psychologist and conclusions of applicants’ ability to parent a child through intercountry adoption and the similarity (or otherwise) of the views formed in your assessment of the applicant/s.

**Financial position:**

Based on the information in the applicants’ financial status declaration and the verifying financial documents provided, the social worker should complete the applicants’ finance summary table below. Ensure that all information in the applicants’ declaration of financial status is the same as in the verifying financial documents they provided. Discuss and clarify with the applicants if the figures in the declaration and financial documentation do not match and amend their financial information if required. In complex situations or with self-employed applicants or family trusts it may be necessary to include advice from their accountant or lawyer.

Discuss with the applicants if any changes to their income are expected to occur after they have the adopted child placed in their care, such as one of the adoptive parents planning to stop working or reduce working hours to care for the adopted child at home. Based on this information, record the predicted monthly income after adoption in the table below.

Discuss with the applicants the estimated costs of caring for the adopted child, including services they may need to access for the family (e.g. counselling, speech therapy, medical treatments for the child).

Provide your confirmation that you have sighted all relevant financial documentation and the applicants have the financial resources to cover adoption costs and sufficient income to care for the adopted child in New Zealand.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **INCOME *–*** ***Applicant 1 (Name)*** | **Annual Gross**  | **Monthly Net** |
| Salary/Wage | NZD | NZD |
| Other income (specify) | NZD | NZD |
| **TOTAL INCOME** |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **INCOME *–******Applicant 2 (Name)*** | **Annual Gross**  | **Monthly Net** |
| Salary/Wage  | NZD | NZD |
| Other income (specify) | NZD | NZD |
| **TOTAL INCOME** |  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TOTAL COMBINED MONTHLY NET INCOME** | NZD |
| **TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENDITURE** | NZD |
| **TOTAL MONTHLY SURPLUS =** ‘total combined monthly net income’ minus ‘total monthly expenditure’ | NZD |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **PREDICTED MONTHLY NET INCOME AFTER ADOPTION**  | **Applicant 1 (Name)** | **Applicant 2 (Name)** |
| Monthly salary/wage after tax | NZD | NZD |
| Other income (specify) | NZD | NZD |
| Total | NZD | NZD |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **COMBINED MONTHLY NET INCOME AFTER ADOPTION** | NZD |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **ASSETS** | **Total Value** |
| Real estate home/residence – GV Value | NZD |
| Real estate other property (e.g. rental) – GV Value | NZD |
| Business  | NZD |
| Savings  | NZD |
| Other assets (*specify all other assets listed by applicants, separated by commas*) | NZD |
| **TOTAL COMBINED ASSETS:**  | NZD |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **LIABILITIES** | **Total owed** |
| Home mortgage – outstanding balance |  |
| Other property mortgage - outstanding balance |  |
| Business loans |  |
| Personal loans (credit cards, overdraft balances, bank loans, hire purchases) |  |
| Other liabilities (specify) |  |
| **TOTAL COMBINED LIABILITIES** |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **TOTAL NET WORTH = ‘**total combined assets’ minus‘total liabilities’ | NZD |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **INSURANCE** | **Applicant 1 (Name)** | **Applicant 2 (Name)** |
| Life insurance - cover amount | NZD  | NZD |
| Critical illness and trauma - cover amount  | NZD | NZD |

I have reviewed Mr X and Mrs X’s financial declaration and sighted all relevant documents to verify their financial status.

I confirm that Mr X and Mrs X have sufficient income to care for the adopted child in New Zealand.

I have discussed with Mr X and Mrs X the estimated costs involved in intercountry adoption, and I confirm that Mr X and Mrs X have financial resources to cover adoption costs*.*

**Police reports:**

Give specific details of any offences disclosed in the Police reports. Comment on the seriousness of the offences shown and if these offences were disclosed by the applicants prior to receiving the Police report. Comment on the applicants’ attitudes/explanations regarding the offending.

If the applicants have no Police convictions, please use this statement: *New Zealand Police record checks were completed for Mr X and Mrs X.  Police reports from ‘name other country/countries’ were provided by Mr X/Mrs X. The police reports confirm that Mr X and Mrs X have no criminal history (offences, convictions or warning) in New Zealand and/or ‘name other country/countries.*

**Accommodation:**

Describe factually the applicants’ home and living arrangements. Comment on the space and amenities available, the condition and standard of the home and garden, and give details of all who live there. Do they own or rent the home or is it part of their employment? If major alterations are planned with children in mind, give details.

**Community:**

Provide details of the area where the home is sited. Include ethnic make-up, the availability of schools and other relevant amenities, support services and organisations available to the family in the community, the proximity of other family members and the levels of support and assistance they will offer the applicants. If the applicants have moved home frequently or plan to move in the near future, explain and comment.

**Support:**

Comment on the support the applicants have from their family, friends, community, relevant cultural groups, other intercountry adoptive families.

**Experience with children:**

If the applicants have children, comment on their care and whether or not these children are living with them. If not, what contact do they have with them? What do the children think about the proposal to adopt and how will they accept the adoptive sibling? Comment on any other experience the applicants may have with caring for children and on their understanding of child growth and development, their views on attachment, discipline and behaviour management? If the referees have children, include any comments about the applicants' relationship and interaction with them.

**Reasons for adoption:**

Give the applicants’ reasons for wanting to adopt, and in particular the reason why they have chosen to adopt from the country specified. Comment if they have travelled/lived in the chosen country.

**Attitudes to adoption:**

Comment on what the applicants have learnt from their adoption training, reading material and needs of intercountry adopted children. Comment on their understanding of identity in adoption; how they intend to form an attachment with their child/ren, their expectations of the child/ren they hope will be placed with them; acknowledgement that they might need to seek assistance or support to enable them to overcome particular difficulties; groups or organisations they have identified that they are, or may, become involved with through the course of this adoption. Have they discussed how they will deal with any racism that their child/ren may encounter? Have they discussed how they will build resilience in their child/ren?

**Child/ren considered:**

Comment on the applicants' initial preference for type of child/ren they wish to adopt and any discussions that lead to the final social work approval and recommendation of number/ages of children and their potential special needs. Please ensure this section is congruent with their tick box choices of type of child (if any). Also comment on the applicants’ ability to parent a child with any special needs they have chosen to accept.

**Childcare plans:**

Who will be the primary caregiver? How do they intend to modify their working hours (and therefore income) and activities to assure time with the child/ren? Mention any plans for alternative care, alternative forms of education such as home schooling. Who will be available to baby-sit, assist with care when needed? Have they familiarised themselves with creating the food from the child’s country of origin?

**Links with the child’s birth culture and home country**:

What have the applicants done to prepare themselves for the adoption of a child from another country? If they have adopted previously, what did they learn from that experience? Do they speak, or have tried to learn, the first language of the child they wish to adopt? What efforts have they made to learn about the proposed child’s culture? What actual experience of children from another country adopted in New Zealand have they had? What steps do they propose to take, to help a child assimilate? What steps will they take to maintain the links with the child’s birth culture and home country? What cultural resources do they have? If the applicants come from the same country as the child; are the applicants aware of subtle cultural and language differences that exist in different areas of the country. How will the applicants meet the specific culture of the child given they may not be from the same area as the child.

**Guardianship:**

What plans do the applicants have for the care and legal guardianship of the child/ren should anything happen to them? Will the proposed guardians have close and ongoing relationships with the child from the time of adoption? Have the applicants discussed their plans with the proposed guardians? Are the proposed guardians fully aware of the implications and in agreement with the plan? Comment on the Police checks for the proposed guardians. Some countries require further information on the guardians - please consult with an advisor

**Summary:**

Provide a summary of the application and the attributes and plans of the applicants, ending with your reasons for supporting this adoption application.

**Recommendation:**

Make a formal recommendation supporting the application including the age, gender and special needs of the child/ren they are approved to adopt and the number of siblings if they are approved to adopt a sibling group.

**Signed:**

Social Worker

Supervisor

**Date Home Study Completed:**