**Home Study Report for Intercountry Adoption from [Country]**

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| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Applicant 1** | **Applicant 2** |
| **Name**  *(as per passport)* | Mrs/Ms/Mr First and Middle Name/s LAST NAME | Mrs/Ms/Mr First and Middle Name/s LAST NAME |
| **Date of Birth** |  |  |
| **Place of Birth**  *(as per passport)* | Town/City, Country | Town/City, Country |
| **Citizenship** |  |  |
| **Residential Status in New Zealand** |  |  |
| **Ethnicity** |  |  |
| **Religion** |  |  |
| **Language/s Spoken** |  |  |
| **Job Title** |  |  |
| **Employer** |  |  |
| **Home Address** | Unit/Flat Number, Street Number and Name, Suburb, Town/City, Postcode, NEW ZEALAND | |
| **Telephone Number** *(including country code)* | +64 | +64 |
| **Email Address** |  |  |
| **Education and Preparation Training Dates** | Adoption in Aotearoa [New Zealand]: Exploring Adoption - *[Date]*  Adoption in Aotearoa [New Zealand]: Connecting Tamariki [Children] - *[Date]*  Adoption in Aotearoa [New Zealand]: Intercountry Adoption Non-Relative/Relative - *[Date]* | |
| **Interview Dates** | *[Include face-to-face, video, and phone interviews]* | |

**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/ren 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. If the applicants’ have children, include their full names, dates of birth, whose children, etc. If they do not have children, state that the applicants do not have any biological or adopted children.*

**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 the number, order of birth, and age differences of siblings (names not required). 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. Include their thoughts on how they were parented and what they would do the same/different (including discipline). Describe present contact and relationships with wider family.*

**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 full-time/part-time work, shiftwork, working from home, or travel requirements that 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 - delete section if none)*

*Any previous significant relations, separation, children or stepchildren relationships.*

**Current Relationship**

*State when and how the applicants met, and when and where they were married. Comment on their relationship, including sharing responsibilities, how they accommodate to each other's differences, and how they resolve conflict.*

**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).*

**Children** *(if any)*

*Describe any biological or adopted children: their personalities, interests, parent-child relationship, behavioural issues, special needs (such as health or learning difficulties), etc. Comment on their care and whether these children are living with them. What do the children think about the proposal to adopt and how will they accept the adoptive sibling?*

**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?* *What is their attitude to the adopted child's interests?*

**Religion and Values**

*Describe the applicants’ religious affiliations, if any, and how they practice their religion. It is not appropriate to indicate that the applicants are willing to bring a child up in a faith they do not practise themselves.*

*What are 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. State the applicants’ vaccination plan for their adopted child/ren.*

**Psychological Assessment** *(Please make sure you have read the whole psychologist report!)*

*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. If there are discrepancies between the psychologist report and HSR, please explain.*

**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 is the same as in the verifying financial documents 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*: Name of Applicant 1*** | **Annual Gross** | **Monthly Net** |
| Salary/Wage | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
| Other income *(specify)* | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
| **TOTAL** | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
|  | | |
| **INCOME*: Name of Applicant 2*** | **Annual Gross** | **Monthly Net** |
| Salary/Wage | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
| Other income *(specify)* | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
| **TOTAL** | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
|  | | |
| **TOTAL COMBINED MONTHLY NET INCOME** | | NZ$0.00 |
| **TOTAL MONTHLY EXPENDITURE** | | NZ$0.00 |
| **TOTAL MONTHLY SURPLUS** *‘total combined monthly net income’ minus ‘total monthly expenditure’* | | NZ$0.00 |
|  | | |
| **PREDICTED MONTHLY NET INCOME AFTER ADOPTION** | ***Applicant 1 Name*** | ***Applicant 2 Name*** |
| Monthly salary/wage after tax | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
| Other income *(specify)* | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
| **TOTAL** | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
|  | | |
| **COMBINED MONTHLY NET INCOME AFTER ADOPTION** | | NZ$0.00 |
|  | | |
| **ASSETS** | | **Total Value** |
| Real Estate: Home (GV Value) | | NZ$0.00 |
| Real Estate: Other Property (GV Value) | | NZ$0.00 |
| Business | | NZ$0.00 |
| Savings | | NZ$0.00 |
| Other assets (*specify all other assets listed by applicants, separated by commas*) | | NZ$0.00 |
| **TOTAL** | | NZ$0.00 |
|  | | |
| **LIABILITIES** | | **Total Owed** |
| Home mortgage (outstanding balance) | | NZ$0.00 |
| Other property mortgage (outstanding balance) | | NZ$0.00 |
| Business loans | | NZ$0.00 |
| Personal loans (credit cards, overdraft balances, bank loans, hire purchases - *remove what doesn’t apply*) | | NZ$0.00 |
| Other liabilities *(specify)* | | NZ$0.00 |
| **TOTAL** | | NZ$0.00 |
|  | | |
| **TOTAL NET WORTH *‘****total combined assets’ minus ‘total liabilities’* | | NZ$0.00 |
|  | | |
| **INSURANCE** | ***Applicant 1 Name*** | ***Applicant 2 Name*** |
| Life insurance (cover amount) | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
| Critical illness and trauma (cover amount) | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |
| Home insurance (joint cover amount) | NZ$0.00 | |
| Other insurance *(specify)* | NZ$0.00 | NZ$0.00 |

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, 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* and Mrs *X*. The police reports confirm that Mr *X* and Mrs *X* have no criminal history (offences, convictions, or warning) in New Zealand *and name other country/countries*.

**Accommodation**

*Describe 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 any 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, etc. What support are they able to provide? What professional supports have they explored that they will utilise? Do the understand that they will need to finance any private support services for their child? Include a summary from their Parenting Plan (as this is not provided to the child’s country). If you had a hui with the support network (or individual conversations), include a summary.*

**Experience with Children**

*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.*

**Intercountry Adoption Training**

*Use the wording below for either non-relative or relative adoption training.*

**Non-Relative**

Mr *X* and Mrs *X* have completed the training programme for prospective adoptive parents organised and facilitated by the Adoption Service of Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children. The adoption training programme included self-learning modules and three days of group workshops facilitated by experienced adoption social workers.

The first two days of training workshops covered information on a range of topics, including brain development, grief and loss in adoption, trauma and attachment, identity and cultural needs in adoption, personal resilience and how to build resilience in an adopted child, understanding support structure and its importance for both the adoptive parents and an adopted child.

The third training workshop was focused specifically on intercountry adoption aspects. The adoptive parents explored their motivation to adopt a child from another country, discussed the lifelong intergenerational journey in intercountry adoption and identified the issues that may arise out of it. The adoptive applicants learnt about the significance of the child’s family history and grief of losing a birth family relationship. They explored various issues which may impact on a child’s behaviour, understanding what is behind a child’s behaviour and what adoptive parents can do to address that behaviour. They also looked at how they would meet the cultural and identity needs of children adopted from another country. The workshop also included videos where adoptive parents and adopted people shared their lived experiences of intercountry adoption.

*SW then to add a couple of sentences in about what the applicants learnt from the training, what resonated for them, e.g., Mr X and Mrs X commented that the training helped them understand the impact of trauma and attachment in an adopted child. They reflected on how adoption may differ from having a birth child.*

*or*

**Relative**

Mr X and Mrs *X* have completed a training programme organised and facilitated by the Adoption Service of Oranga Tamariki—Ministry for Children, which focuses specifically on intercountry adoptions by relatives. The training included self-directed learning and two four-hour workshops.

The workshops and self-learning modules help adoptive applicants understand the New Zealand legislation and principles which guide our approach to intercountry adoption by relatives. Adoptive applicants learn about brain development, attachment and resilience. They explore their own resilience, learn how to build resilience in their adopted child and techniques to support children who have experienced trauma. They also learn why having a support structure is important and explore their support networks. Adoptive applicants also learn about the importance of identity and supporting the child’s connections to their biological family, birth culture and country of origin.

*SW then to add a couple of sentences in about what the applicants learnt from the training, what resonated for them. e.g., Mr X and Mrs X commented that the training helped them understand the impact of trauma and attachment in an adopted child. They reflected on how adoption may differ from having a birth child.*

**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.*

**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 discrimination (due to ethnicity, accent, learning or health needs, being adopted, etc) 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 or 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? What language/s will they speak at home?*

**Links with the Child’s Birth Culture and Home Country**

*What are the applicants’ understanding of their own culture?*

*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? Comment if they have travelled/lived in the chosen country.*

*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? Do they have links with cultural mentors? What will they do to promote a child's identity and pride in their culture, including what they think is important to preserve?*

*Have they given consideration to the name of the child? Will they keep the child’s given name or change it?*

*What cultural resources do they have?* *How have they evidenced their knowledge of the country and its people, including stories of the land, games, art, music, etc.*

*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*.

*Explain how they will raise a child through transracial adoption.*

**Nominated Guardians**

*What plans do the applicants have for the care and legal guardianship of the child should anything happen to them? Who are the nominated guardians for the child? Will the nominated guardians have close and ongoing relationships with the child from the time of adoption? Have the applicants discussed their plans with the nominated guardians? Are the nominated guardians fully aware of the implications and in agreement with the plan? Comment on the Ministry of Justice criminal record checks provided by the nominated guardians. Some countries require further information on the guardians - please consult with an advisor. Include that you have spoken to the guardians to confirm their understanding and willingness to fulfil this role.*

**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.*

*Add names*

Social Worker Supervisor

*Add team Add team*

Date: