# HONG KONG

## INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROGRAMME

ORANGA TAMARIKI
Ministry for Children

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| **Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption** | The Republic of China has ratified the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption ('Hague Convention'). It entered into force in Hong Kong on 1 January 2006. As both Hong Kong and New Zealand are parties to the Hague Convention, all adoptions must comply with Hague Convention principles and procedural safeguards in order to be recognised and for the adopted child to be entitled to reside in New Zealand. |
| **Central Authority** | The Hong Kong Central Authority under the Hague Convention is the Social Welfare Department (www.swd.gov.hk). |
| **Legislation** | The intercountry adoption of children from Hong Kong is legislated by the Adoption (Intercountry) Act 1997 and the Hague Convention. |
| **Facilitation** | Intercountry adoptions to New Zealand are facilitated by Hong Kong's accredited body, International Social Service Hong Kong Branch (www.isshk.org). Hong Kong requires that the adoption occurs in New Zealand after a monitoring period. |
| **Approval of the Match** | All matches of children are first approved by the Social Welfare Department in Hong Kong, and then must be considered and approved by the New Zealand Central Authority for Intercountry Adoption. |
| **Citizenship and Residency** | Oranga Tamariki can only facilitate adoptions from Hong Kong for New Zealand Citizens or New Zealand Permanent Residents who are habitually resident in New Zealand. |
| **Age of Applicants** | Applicants must be at least 25 years old and at least 25 years older than the child to be adopted. |
| **Applicant Couples** | Couples must have been married for at least 3 years. |
| **Single Applicants** | Single applicants must have sufficient support and parenting ability. |
| **Health** | Medical reports are required for all family members. Applicants must be in good physical and mental health. |
| **Education** | Applicants will have preferably completed secondary education. |
| **Number of Children in the Family** | Families with no more than three children are preferred. Families with no more than five children could be considered if they are considered to have special parenting capabilities. There must be at least one year age difference between the child to be adopted and the immediate elder or younger child in the family. |
| **Children Available for Intercountry Adoption** | Children in need of placement have special needs and are in State care. While most children are Chinese, some are of other ethnicities. |
| | Children may be considered as having special needs if they are older, have a minor or correctable heath problem, have delayed development, or were born to a parent with psychiatric problems, intellectual disability, or another disability. Many waiting children in Hong Kong have serious medical and behavioural diagnoses. |

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| | Only one child may be adopted at a time unless a sibling group. A second adoption application can only be made after the finalisation of the first adoption. |
| | Most children available for intercountry adoption have experienced trauma, and applicants must be able to demonstrate the ability and resilience to deal with the range of behavioural and psychological issues that may arise for the child because of this trauma. |
| **Child's Background** | A comprehensive medical background, social history, and developmental assessment are provided. Most children have been provided with identifying information about their birth family. |
| **Matching Process and Timeframes** | Oranga Tamariki has no recent experience of applications being lodged and, therefore, the matching timeframe is unknown. |
| **Travel Requirements** | Both adoptive parents must travel to Hong Kong to bring the adopted child to New Zealand. The length of stay in Hong Kong is up to two weeks, to be introduced to the child and process the adoption proposal. Interpreters and escorts are not required. |
| **Approximate Costs** | The application fee is US$200, which does not include notarisation and authentication. The adoption cost is approximately NZ$4,000 for the adoption, Government fees, immigration, and citizenship. Additional costs include all international and domestic travel, accommodation, food, and personal expenses while in Hong Kong. |
| **Post-Placement Reports** | Following the child's placement, ISS Hong Kong requires post-placement reports on the adoptive family every three months until the adoption is finalised. A minimum of 4 reports are required. |
| **Finalisation** | Intercountry adoptions between New Zealand and Hong Kong are finalised when the New Zealand Central Authority issues the Certificate of Conformity under Article 23 of the Hague Convention. Once issued, the adoptive parents apply to Department of Internal Affairs (Citizenship Office) for the child's new birth certificate, New Zealand citizenship, and passport. |
| *This fact sheet provides a brief general overview of the process and requirements. The criteria, processes, costs, and children in need of intercountry adoption change frequently. Applicants should speak to a social worker to confirm the most up to date information.* | |