

THE PHILIPPINES

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROGRAMME

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Hague Convention	As both the Philippines and New Zealand are parties to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption ('Hague Convention'), all adoptions must comply with Hague Convention's principles and procedural safeguards in order to be recognised. This entitles the adopted child to reside in New Zealand.
Central Authority	The Philippines Central Authority under the Hague Convention is the National Authority for Child Care ('NACC'), part of the Department of Social Welfare and Development ('DSWD'). The NACC website is www.nacc.gov.ph .
Legislation	The intercountry adoption of Filipino children is legislated by the Adoption (Intercountry) Act 1997 and the Hague Convention.
Facilitation	Applicants can choose to be assessed by Oranga Tamariki or Adoption First Steps, and must use Inter-Country Adoption New Zealand ('ICANZ') as the placement agency. ICANZ is accredited to facilitate intercountry adoptions and authorised by NACC to facilitate the Special Home Finding programme.
Approval of the Match	All matches of children must be considered and approved by the New Zealand Central Authority for Intercountry Adoption.
Citizenship and Residency	Oranga Tamariki and ICANZ can only facilitate adoptions from the Philippines for New Zealand Citizens or New Zealand Permanent Residents who are habitually resident in New Zealand.
Age of Applicants	When the adoption application is filed in the Philippines, applicants must be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • At least 27 years old • At least 16 years older than the child to be adopted • No more than 45 years older than the child to be adopted
Applicant Couples	To make a joint adoption application, couples must have been married for at least 3 years. However, a 2-year de facto period prior to at least 1 year of marriage is sufficient. A maximum of two divorces are permitted.
Single Applicants	NACC will accept applications from single applicants of any gender, as long as they comply with all other requirements. They will only be considered for children aged 9-15 years old.
Religion	Both applicants must demonstrate that they regularly and actively practice their religion, and must provide a reference from a religious leader (local church minister, priest, etc) who has known them for at least five years.
Health	Applicants must provide medical reports, plus a full psychological report with specific psychometric tests by a registered clinical psychologist. NACC lists physical and mental health conditions that are not accepted.
Education	Applicants must have at least a high school diploma, the equivalent of at least 4 years of secondary education (NCEA Level 2) in New Zealand.
Income	Applicants must have a minimum annual income of US\$40,000.
NACC Priority	NACC gives priority to applicants of Filipino heritage.
Character	If an applicant has been convicted of a crime involving moral turpitude, an application would not be acceptable under Philippine law.

Number of Children in the Family	NACC will consider the family's composition and capacity to meet an adopted child's needs. Applicants with two or more children may receive lower priority.
Children Available for Intercountry Adoption	Children are in the care of the State in the Philippines and their specific needs vary widely. Only one child may be adopted at a time, unless adopting a sibling group. Applicants may not specify the child's gender.
	NACC are only accepting applications for their Special Home Finding programme: older children (7+ years old), sibling groups, children with multiple and/or complex medical needs, developmental delays, intellectual disabilities, and complex social backgrounds including sexual abuse.
	Children available for intercountry adoption have experienced trauma. Applicants must be able to demonstrate their 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	The medical background, social history, and a detailed developmental and psychological assessment is provided for each child. Most children have been provided with identifying information about their birth family.
Matching Process and Timeframes	There is no specific timeframe for matching. Contact ICANZ to discuss further. The time between acceptance of a child and travel to the Philippines is approximately 10-15 months.
Travel Requirements	Both applicants are required to travel to the Philippines for up to two weeks to process the adoption proposal. ICANZ may be able to offer additional support from their partner liaison agency in the Philippines. Interpreters and escorts are not required. Applicants should check with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for any specific instructions issued for the area they are travelling to.
Approximate Costs	Costs should be obtained directly from ICANZ.
Post-Placement Reports	Following the child's placement, NACC requires three reports from ICANZ and three reports from the adoptive parents.
Finalisation	Intercountry adoptions between New Zealand and the Philippines are finalised when the New Zealand Central Authority issues the Certificate of Conformity under Article 23 of the Hague Convention. Once an Article 23 is issued, adoptive parents who are New Zealand Citizens apply to Department of Internal Affairs for the child's new birth certificate, New Zealand citizenship, and passport.
<i>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.</i>	