

HONG KONG

INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION PROGRAMME



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Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption	As both Hong Kong 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 principles and procedural safeguards in order to be recognised and for the adopted child to be entitled to reside in New Zealand. The Republic of China has ratified the Hague Convention and it entered into force in Hong Kong on 1 January 2006.
Central Authority	The Hong Kong Central Authority under the Hague Convention is the Department of Social Welfare. Their website is: www.swd.gov.hk/en/index/site_pubsvc/page_family/sub_listofserv/id_adopti onse
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. Hong Kong requires that the adoption occurs in New Zealand after a legal requirement for a monitoring period.
Approval of the Match	All matches of children from Hong Kong must be considered and approved by Oranga Tamariki who is 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 between 25 and 45 years old and be at least 25 years older than the child to be adopted. Special consideration is given to couples over 45, but not exceeding 50 years, with childcare experience for adopting children with special needs.
Applicant Couples	Only married couples are eligible to apply to adopt from Hong Kong. If it is the first marriage for both applicants, they must have been married for at least three years. If it is the second marriage for one or both applicants, they must have been married for at least five years. Applicants who have had two or more divorces are not usually considered.
Single Applicants	Single applicants are not preferred unless they have special parental skills and must have sufficient support.
Health	Medical reports are required for all family members.
Number of Children in the Family	Families with no more than three children are preferred. Consideration will be given to families with no more than five children could be considered if they are considered to have special parenting capabilities. There should 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 are generally two years or older, have special needs, are in State care, and are Chinese. There appear to be more boys in need of placement.
	Children may be considered as having special needs if they are older, have a minor or correctable health problem, have delayed development, or were born of a parent with psychiatric problems, intellectual disability, or another disability. However, many waiting children in Hong Kong have serious medical and behavioural diagnoses.
	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.
Matching Process and Timeframes	Due to the high needs of the waiting children in Hong Kong, 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.
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.
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 an Article 23 Certificate of Conformity is issued in New Zealand.
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 an Article 23 is issued, the adoptive parents apply to Department of Internal Affairs (Citizenship Division) 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>	