

Adoptions DSS 2019-20

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Adoptions DSS 2019-20

Identifying and definitional attributes

Metadata item type:	Data Set Specification
METEOR identifier:	729909
Registration status:	Children and Families , Superseded 03/11/2021
DSS type:	Data Set Specification (DSS)
Scope:	The Adoptions data set specification (DSS) describes data collected from state/territory departments responsible for adoptions for the Adoptions Australia Collection.

[Adoption](#) is the legal process by which a person legally becomes a child of the [adoptive parent](#)(s) and legally ceases to be a child of his/her existing parent(s). Adopted children are normally aged 18 years and under; however, some [known adoptions](#), such as adoptions by [step-parents](#), can involve adoptees over 18.

The Adoptions Australia Collection contains data relating to two populations of children, those subject to:

- **Finalisations**- children who were the subject of a [finalised adoption](#) order during the reporting period. This includes orders that were made in Australia and in the case of some [intercountry adoptions](#), where the full adoption order was made in the [country of origin](#).
- **Placements**- children, regardless of the status of their adoption order, who were placed with their adoptive family during the reporting period. 'Placed with their adoptive families' refers to when the child enters Australia for intercountry adoptions, or when the child is taken into the care of the prospective adoptive parent(s).

The DSS excludes adoptions by Australian citizens or permanent residents who have lived overseas for 12 months or more and have adopted a child through an overseas agency or government authority. This type of intercountry adoption falls outside the jurisdiction of the Australian state and territory departments responsible for adoption.

Collection and usage attributes

Guide for use:	Adoption categories
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[Intercountry adoption](#)—Intercountry adoptions are adoptions of children from countries other than Australia, who are legally able to be placed for adoption, but who generally have had no previous contact or relationship with the adoptive parents. There are four categories of intercountry adoptions, divided into two groups.

Program adoptions — an intercountry adoptions through an official Australian intercountry adoption program that was active at the time the file of the applicant(s) was sent.

These adoptions can be a:

- [Hague adoption](#) — an intercountry adoption where Australia had an official adoption program open with the adoptive child's country of origin and the adoptive child's country of origin has ratified or acceded to the Hague Convention, and the file of the applicant(s) was sent after the Hague Convention entered into force in that country
- [Bilateral adoption](#) — an intercountry adoption where Australia had an official adoption program open with the adoptive child's country of origin at the time the file of the applicant(s) was sent, but where the Hague Convention had not entered into force in that country before the file was sent.

Non-program adoptions — an intercountry adoption that was not through an Australian intercountry adoption program that was active at the time the file of the applicant(s) was sent.

These adoptions can be a:

- **[Known child intercountry adoption](#)** — an adoption where the child and the applicant had a pre-existing relationship prior to the adoption that allowed the adoption to occur. Without this relationship, the child would not generally be able to be adopted by the applicant through an intercountry adoption process.
- **[Ad-hoc adoption](#)** — an adoption from a country with which Australia did not have an existing intercountry adoption program at the time the file of the applicant(s) was sent.

[Local adoption](#)—an adoption of a child/children who were born or permanently resided in Australia before the adoption, who are legally able to be placed for adoption, but who generally have had no previous contact or relationship with the adoptive parents.

[Known adoption](#)—an adoption of a child/children who were born or permanently resided in Australia before the adoption, who have a pre-existing relationship with the adoptive parent(s) and who are generally not able to be adopted by anyone other than the adoptive parent(s). Known child adoptions include adoptions by step-parents and other relatives. Intercountry known adoptions are not included in this category of adoption.

Hague/non-Hague countries

An adopted child's country of origin is categorised as either a 'Hague' or a 'non-Hague' country. A Hague country is where the adoptive child's country of origin has ratified or acceded to the **[Hague Convention](#)** on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, and the **[applicant\(s\)](#)** file was sent to that country after the Convention entered into force in that country. By ratifying or acceding to the Hague Convention a country is legally bound to apply the Convention.

In some cases, the categorisation of a country as either 'Hague' or 'non-Hague' may vary at different stages of the overseas adoption process (for example, a country may have signed but not yet ratified or acceded to the Hague Convention when an applicant's file is sent to that country, but by the time the adopted child enters Australia and is placed with their adoptive parent(s), the country may have ratified or acceded to the Convention and the Convention has come into force). By signing the Hague Convention a country expresses, in principle, its intention to become a party to the Convention. However, signature does not, in any way, oblige a country to take further action (towards ratification or not). A country is party to the Hague Convention if it has ratified or acceded to the Convention - this involves the legal obligation for the country to apply the Convention.

The list of 'Hague' countries, (ie. countries that ratified or acceded to the Hague Convention) can be found **[here](#)**. The listed date the Convention came into effect can be used to determine which countries had ratified the Convention before the end of the reporting period for the Adoptions DSS.

Implementation start date: 01/07/2019

Implementation end date: 30/06/2020

Comments:

From 2018-19, intercountry adoptions placement type and special care needs items are no longer developmental and are part of the annual collection, with definitions and parameters agreed by the relevant authorities.

For local and intercountry adoptions, children are generally placed with their adoptive families before their adoption order is finalised; however, for some intercountry adoptions where a finalised adoption order recognised by Australian authorities was issued by the country of origin, placement may occur after the adoption order is finalised. Some children placed for adoption during the reporting period may not have their adoption finalised until a following year. In addition, some adoption orders finalised in the reporting period may relate to children who were placed in previous years.

Glossary items

Glossary terms that are relevant to this data set are included here.

[Ad-hoc adoption](#)

[Adoption](#)

[Adoptive parent](#)

[Applicant](#)

[Bilateral adoption](#)

[Country of origin](#)

[Expatriate adoption](#)

[Finalised adoption](#)

[Hague Convention](#)

[Hague adoption](#)

[Intercountry adoption](#)

[Known adoption](#)

[Known child intercountry adoption](#)

[Local adoption](#)

[Non-Hague adoption](#)

[Placement](#)

[Step-parent](#)

Source and reference attributes

Submitting organisation: Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

Steward: [Australian Institute of Health and Welfare](#)

Relational attributes

Related metadata references: Supersedes [Adoptions DSS 2018-19](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 20/01/2021

Has been superseded by [Adoptions DSS 2020-21](#)
[Children and Families](#), Superseded 05/06/2023

Metadata items in this Data Set Specification

Seq Metadata item
No.

Obligation Max
occurs

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Adoption—access arrangement type, agreement type code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	Conditional on the adoption being a 'local' adoption.		
-	Adoption—adoption consent, code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' or a carer (know child) adoption.		
-	Adoption—adoption organisation sector, code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' adoption.		
-	Adoption—adoption placement not finalised, total N[NN]	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	Conditional on adoption type being an 'intercountry - partner country' adoption.		
	DSS specific information:		
	Not finalised refers to those adoption orders not finalised by 30 June of the reporting period.		
-	Adoption—adoption placement, total N[NN]	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' or 'intercountry - partner country' adoption.		
-	Adoption—application for information lodged, total number N[NN]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—application for information type, code N	Optional	1
-	Adoption—application type, information/veto code N[N]	Optional	2
-	Adoption—children adopted as part of a sibling group, total number N[N]	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation:		
	Conditional on adoption type being a 'local', 'carer (known child)' or an 'intercountry - program' adoption.		
-	Adoption—finalised adoption, total number N[NN]	Optional	1
	DSS specific information:		
	Finalised refers to those adoption orders finalised by 30 June of the reporting period.		
-	Adoption—Indigenous status, code N	Optional	1

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Adoption—intercountry adoption placement type, code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>Conditional on adoption type being an 'intercountry - program' adoption.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>From 2018-19, intercountry adoptions placement type items are no longer developmental and are part of the annual collection, with definitions and parameters agreed by the relevant authorities.</p>		
-	Adoption—person who lodged a veto, party to an adoption, code N[N]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—person who lodged an application for information, party to an adoption code N[N]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—sibling group, total groups N[N]	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' or a carer (known child) adoption.</p>		
-	Adoption—veto in place, total number N[NN]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—veto lodgement, total number N[NN]	Optional	1
-	Adoption—veto type, code N	Optional	1
-	Adoptive family—adoptive parent marital status, code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>Conditional on adoption type being a 'local', 'carer (known child)' or 'intercountry - program' adoption.</p>		
-	Adoptive family—sibling composition, text X[X(199)]	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>Conditional on adoption type being a 'local', 'carer (known child)' or 'intercountry - program' adoption.</p>		
-	Adoptive family—sibling composition, type code N[N]	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>Conditional on adoption type being a 'local', 'carer (known child)' or 'intercountry - program' adoption.</p>		
-	Adoptive family—special care need, code N	Conditional	1
	<p>Conditional obligation:</p> <p>Conditional on adoption type being an 'intercountry - program' adoption.</p> <p>DSS specific information:</p> <p>From 2018–19, adoptive family special care needs items are no longer developmental and are part of the annual collection, with definitions and parameters agreed by the relevant authorities.</p>		

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Birth mother—marital status, at child's birth code N	Conditional	1
Conditional obligation:			
Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' adoption.			
DSS specific information:			
The marital status is measured at the time of the child's birth (rather than at the time of placement).			
The birth mother is classified as married if she was legally married (regardless of whether she is married to the birth father) at the time of the child's birth. In situations where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth (i.e. during the pregnancy), the birth mother is still classified as 'married'.			
The birth mother is classified as not married if she was not legally married at the time of the child's birth (except in circumstances where the birth mother's legal marital partner died before the birth). This includes situations where the birth mother was living in a de facto relationship.			
-	Person—adoption type, code N	Optional	1
-	Person—age, total years N[NN]	Optional	5
DSS specific information:			
Age in years is collected up to five times: once for the adopted child subject to a finalised adoption; once for the adopted child subject to placement; once for the birth mother; once for the adoptive parent(s); and, once for the adult adopted person (aged 18 years or older) if they lodge an application for information. If age is unknown, use code 999 (unknown/not stated).			
When collecting for the adopted child, the age for the child of a 'known' adoption is counted at the date the adoption order was granted. For a local or intercountry adoption, the age of the child is counted at the date of placement with the adopted parent(s).			
When collecting for the birth mother, age is at the birth of the child. Ages 48 and above are grouped in the 48+ category.			
When collecting for the adoptive parent(s), the age of both the adopted mother and adopted father should be collected if relevant (some adoptions may be by single parents or same sex-couples). The age of the adoptive parent(s) is the age completed in years and is counted at the date of placement of the child. Ages of parent(s) are grouped in the following age ranges: Less than 25; 25-29; 30-34; 35-39; 40-44; 45-49; 50-54, 55+.			
When collecting for an adult person who lodged an application for information, age is at the time of application. Ages are grouped in the following age ranges: 18-19; 20-24; 25-34; 35-44; 45+.			
-	Person—country of origin, code (SACC 2016) NNNN	Conditional	1
Conditional obligation:			
Conditional on adoption type being a 'local' or 'intercountry' adoption.			
DSS specific information:			
Country of origin refers to the country of habitual residence of the child being adopted, which is generally a child's country of birth.			

Seq No.	Metadata item	Obligation	Max occurs
-	Person—intercountry adoption living arrangement post arrival, code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation: Conditional on adoption type being an 'intercountry - program' adoption.		
-	Person—intercountry adoption order type, code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation: Conditional on adoption type being an 'intercountry - program' adoption.		
-	Person—pre-adoption relationship to adoptive parent(s), code N	Conditional	1
	Conditional obligation: Conditional on adoption type being a 'known' adoption.		
-	Person—sex, code N	Optional	3
	DSS specific information: For the Adoptions DSS, code 3 Intersex or indeterminate is not collected. Sex is collected up to three times: once for the adopted child subject to a finalised adoption; once for the adoptive parent(s); and once for the adult adopted person (aged 18 years or older) if they lodge an application for information. When collecting for the adopted child or adoptive parents use code 9 (Not stated/inadequately described) if sex is unknown. Note that when collecting for the adoptive parents, some children may be adopted by single parents or same-sex couples.		
-	Service provider organisation—approved intercountry adoption client, total number N[NN]	Optional	1
	DSS specific information: Refers to the total number of intercountry adoption clients approved by a service provider organisation between 1 July and 30 June of the reporting period.		
-	Service provider organisation—intercountry adoption client file sent overseas, total number N[NN]	Optional	1
	DSS specific information: Refers to the total number of intercountry adoption client files that were sent overseas between 1 July and 30 June of a reporting period.		
-	Service provider organisation—intercountry adoption client, total number N[NN]	Optional	1