



4 October, 2016

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to you with concerns with the *Adoption and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2016*.

I understand that certain people in society would like the opportunity to raise a child. However expanding eligibility to include same-sex couples and single persons does not prioritise the rights of the children involved. Such changes will purposely deny some adoptive children a mother or father in their family....the right to a father and a mother. We as a society acknowledge and value the differences that each brings to raising healthy children. Life situations do not always allow the presence of a mother and a father in the home, and this is generally considered a sad or unfortunate scenario. But to choose this for a child, when there is the opportunity to place them with a mother and father figure, is unjust. I have worked in the education, welfare and health fields and my experience is that when families are without a mother / a father, there are struggles for those children specifically related to this gap in the family.

Please do not expand eligibility and put adults' rights ahead of children's rights in the situation of adoption. Please do not stop adoptive children from the right to have a mother and a father in their home.

Yours Sincerely

Kerri-Ann Caswell