

# POLICY

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<b>Title:</b>	Determining the number of adoption assessments to be undertaken in a financial year
<b>Policy No:</b>	CPD617-2

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**Policy Statement:**

During a financial year, the Department of Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services will assess the suitability of only the number of couples necessary to ensure there are sufficient prospective adoptive parents to meet the anticipated placement needs of children.

**Principles:**

- The wellbeing and best interests of an adopted child, both through childhood and the rest of his or her life, are the paramount considerations in all adoption matters.
- The *Adoption Act 2009* is to be administered in a way that supports efficient and accountable practice in the delivery of adoption services.
- Inclusion of a persons name in the expression of interest register does not confer an entitlement on the person to be assessed, or to be selected for assessment, for suitability to be an adoptive parent.
- People expressing an interest in being assessed as suitable adoptive parents are entitled to receive information about the anticipated number and placement needs of children and the estimated number of people to be assessed in a year.

**Objectives:**

The number of couples whose names are included on the suitable adoptive parent register is sufficient to meet the anticipated needs of children requiring an adoptive placement.

The number of people assessed will ensure:

- children are able to be provided with the best possible adoptive placement
- the selection of suitable prospective adoptive parents for a child is able to be made within a reasonable timeframe
- people considering expressing interest, or who have expressed interest, in having their suitability to be an adoptive parent assessed, have an informed expectation about the likelihood of being selected for assessment and
- The number of persons assessed will minimise, as far as possible, the likelihood of couples on the suitable adoptive parents register needing to be re-assessed multiple times before being selected as prospective adoptive parents for a child.

**Scope:**

The number of persons to be assessed in a financial year may be revised as required.

This policy does not apply to the selection of persons to be assessed to meet the needs of a particular child or to the number of step-parent adoption applications that will be assessed in a financial year.

**Roles and Responsibilities:**

At least once each financial year, Adoption and Specialist Support Services will provide information to assist the Executive Director, Operations to determine the number of couples it is necessary to assess to meet children's expected placement needs.

In determining how many couples to assess, Adoption and Specialist Support Services will consider:

- the number of children who have required adoptive placements with Queensland couples in previous years
- the number of children who have required adoptive placements with couples in other Australian jurisdictions in previous years
- the profile of couples currently listed in the suitable adoptive parents register
- how many couples need to be assessed to maintain a pool of prospective adoptive parents of a size that enables timely selection of adoptive parents for children
- the effective use of resources
- accountable service delivery

Adoption and Specialist Support Services will provide information to assist the Executive Director, Operations, to review and adjust the number of couples to be assessed as required.

**Authority:**

*Adoption Act 2009*, sections 5, 66, 67

**Delegations:**

Executive Director, Operations

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**Records File No.:** CHS-16721  
**Date of approval:** 04 March 2013  
**Date of operation:** 12 March 2013  
**Date to be reviewed:** 04 March 2016

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**Office:** Communities, Child Safety and Disability Services  
**Help Contact:** Child Protection Development

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**Links:**

Adoption Practice Manual

**Related Adoption policies:**

The wellbeing and best interest of the child in adoption (626)

Closing the expression of interest register (619)

Determining which persons on the adoption expression of interest register will be assessed (618)

Regular re-assessment of persons whose names are included in the suitable adoptive parents register (623)

**Rescinded policies:**

2.2 CHS-16721 Determining the number of adoption assessments to be undertaken in a financial year

205-2 Determining the number of adoption assessments to be undertaken in a financial year

617-1 Determining the number of adoption assessments to be undertaken in a financial year

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Margaret Allison

Director-General