



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Supplementary Order Paper

Thursday, 1 May 1997

ADOPTION (INTERCOUNTRY) BILL

Proposed Amendments

Hon D. A. M. GRAHAM, in Committee, to move the following amendments:

Clause 5: To add to this clause on page 3 the following subclause:

(2) No such delegation shall prevent the exercise of any function by the New Zealand Central Authority.

New clause 5A: To insert, after clause 5 on page 3, the following clause:

5A. Director-General must offer choice of report-writing service—(1) The Director-General must, on application by prospective adoptive parents, prepare reports under the Convention as to their eligibility and suitability to adopt.

(2) **Subsection (1)** applies notwithstanding that the function of preparing those reports may also have been delegated to any public authority or accredited body.

(3) This section applies for the purpose of offering prospective adoptive parents a choice of whether the report is prepared by a Government or non-Government agency.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed amendments ensure that the Director-General of Social Welfare will be required, on application by prospective adoptive parents, to prepare reports under the Convention as to their eligibility and suitability to adopt. The purpose of the amendments is to ensure that prospective adoptive parents have a choice of whether the report is prepared by a Government or non-Government agency, even if the function is delegated to accredited bodies.

The proposed *clause 5 (2)* is added for the avoidance of doubt. Article 22, paragraph 2 of the Convention envisages that functions may be exercised by the Central Authority and also by other nominated bodies.