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Number 4

**Adoptions
Australia
1991-92**

Graham Angus
Katherine Wilkinson



AUSTRALIAN INSTITUTE OF
HEALTH & WELFARE

Australian Institute of Health and Welfare

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Number 4

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Preface

This report was prepared by Graham Angus and Katherine Wilkinson of AIHW.

The use of information from the article 'Adoption Law in Australia', compiled by Belinda Stonehouse and published by the Australian Institute of Family Studies, and the book *Adoption Australia* by Peter Boss and published by the National Children's Bureau of Australia, is acknowledged.

This publication is the second on adoptions compiled by AIHW and the fourth in the Child Welfare Series.

Tables in this publication which show only statistics for the whole of Australia are available for individual States and Territories on request.

Symbols used

The following symbols are used in the tables of this report:

- nil or rounded to zero
- .. not applicable
- n.a. not available.

Summary

- 1,052 adoptions orders were made in the year 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992—a decrease of 8% from the previous year. This represents a decrease of 65% since 1981–82 and a decrease of 89% since 1971–72.
- The majority of adoptions were by non-relatives (72%), with adoptions by step-parents accounting for 25% and by other relatives 3%.
- Children adopted by non-relatives are usually younger than those adopted by relatives: 80% of children adopted by non-relatives are under 5 years of age compared to 13% of children adopted by relatives.
- Of children adopted by non-relatives, 45% were born overseas. Of these, 55% were girls.
- Just over half of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children adopted were placed with Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- The number of adoptions by relatives in 1991–92 was about the same as in the previous year, while the number of adoptions by non-relatives—both Australian-born and overseas-born—was lower.

1 Introduction

This publication presents adoption statistics provided by State and Territory community services departments for the period 1 July 1991 to 30 June 1992. These statistics cover all finalised adoptions notified to State and Territory community services departments and all children legally available for adoption during that year.

The data provided by State and Territory departments were collated according to definitions and explanatory notes set out in *Adoption Standards* dated March 1982 and agreed to by the States, Territories and the Commonwealth. The definitions used are shown in the section *Explanation of terms* on page 24. Data for years prior to 1985–86 are from the Australian Bureau of Statistics publication *Adoptions, Australia* (Catalogue no. 4406.0). Data for the years 1987–88 to 1989–90 are from the WELSTAT publication *Adoptions: National Data Collection*.

This report presents data across Australia according to standardised definitions and counting rules. However, the tables and figures are based on the data provided—which are dependent on factors such as the scope and completeness of data collection, reporting procedures, policy guidelines and judicial requirements of the particular State or Territory. These factors may affect the comparability of data across States and Territories.

2 Adoptions in Australia

Introduction

In Australia each State and Territory has responsibility for adoptions. In some States adoptions can only be arranged through the government department responsible, while in others they can also be arranged through non-government agencies.

In recent years the emphasis in adoptions has changed from being a service for couples wishing to adopt a child, to being a service for children; the priority is now the welfare of the child (Stonehouse 1992).

There has been a major shift in attitudes to secrecy. In the past, various State legislations were based on the premise that secrecy protected all parties. Recent practice around Australia is for a register to be provided allowing adopted children and their birth relatives to make contact.

The predominant features of adoption in Australia over the past two decades have been the considerable increase in adoptions of overseas-born children and the dramatic decline in the number of children available for adoption from within Australia, due to a declining birthrate and an increasing rate of retention of children by single mothers.

During the 1970s, fewer Australian babies were put up for adoption due to wider availability of abortion and reliable contraception, and the establishment of family planning centres. Negative attitudes towards single mothers relaxed and the introduction in 1973 of income support for sole parents made it easier for parents to keep their children. (Stonehouse 1992)

Adoptions by relatives

The majority of adoptions by relatives are adoptions by step-parents to incorporate children into the new marriage.

The number of adoptions by relatives other than parents (including step-parents) is low as most States and Territories have policies in place which promote the use of guardianship or custody orders, rather than adoptions, to place children in the care of non-parental relatives. In New South Wales, Queensland, Tasmania, South Australia and Victoria, legislative provisions now allow for adoption only in exceptional circumstances when a guardianship or custody order would not adequately provide for the welfare and interests of the child (Stonehouse 1992).

In Queensland, adoptions by relatives other than parents are special cases—for example, where the natural parents are unable to care for the child through illness or other causes, or where the parents have died and made legal provision for the care of the child in this event. Such cases are few in number, and each is carefully assessed on its merits to determine the child's best interests.

Relatives other than parents are given preference in the adoption of children over non-relatives in South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory. In the Australian Capital Territory, specific adoption consent can be given to a close relative.

New South Wales and Western Australia are the only States or Territories where adoptions by relatives can be arranged other than through the appropriate department or an agency. In New South Wales, solicitors may organise applications for formal adoptions by step-parents when the custodial parent remarries without notifying the Department of Community Services. The Supreme Court validates these adoptions but cannot readily provide the information in the form required for the purposes of this collection. Hence, the figures on

children adopted by parents through solicitors are not included in this report. In Western Australia, adoptions by relatives can be arranged privately and processed through solicitors with the department being informed of the process and having a discretion to provide associated reports and recommendations in respect to the application to the Family Court. In recent years most adoptions by relatives in Western Australia were arranged in this way, and are included in this collection.

Adoptions by non-relatives

A child is legally available for adoption by non-relatives if all the necessary consents to the child's adoption have been obtained or dispensed with. Nearly half of adoptions by non-relatives are inter-country adoptions.

A couple wishing to adopt a child must satisfy the department or agency that they will be suitable parents. Generally, only married couples are allowed to adopt unrelated children, although de facto couples are also eligible in New South Wales and South Australia. Other factors considered in the assessment of potential parents are their age, health, reasons for wanting to adopt, and marital stability.

In New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Tasmania, adoptions by persons not related to the child may be arranged by either the authorised department or an approved adoption agency. In Queensland, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, all adoptions must be arranged through the authorised department.

Inter-country adoptions

A substantial increase in the number of adoptions of children born overseas has occurred since the mid-1970s, and has involved children predominantly from Asian countries. The process has been strictly controlled by the Federal Government and State Governments under the *Federal Immigration (Guardianship of Children) Act 1946* and adoption Acts in each State and Territory. The Federal Government is responsible for investigating and approving overseas adoption programs and requires that there be a suitable central agency in the overseas country that will administer the program in accordance with Australian standards.

At the present time there is still a considerable waiting list for adoptions of overseas-born children. The number of inter-country adoptions increased steadily to 1989–90 but has been lower for the two years 1990–91 and 1991–92. The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child recognises:

... inter alia, that inter-country adoption may be considered as an alternative means of child care if the child cannot be placed in a foster or adoptive family, or cannot be cared for in any suitable manner in the child's country of origin. (United Nations 1989)

Korea, which provided the majority of children for adoption in 1991–92 in Australia, is no longer accepting applications. The Philippines government will only accept applications from couples who have a Filipino background or who have previously adopted a child from that country (Stonehouse 1992).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adoptions

Few Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children are adopted. Each State and Territory has different legislation and policy regarding the adoption of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. The prevailing view is that when it is deemed to be appropriate to adopt Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children, they should be adopted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people so as to maintain their cultural integrity.

Although not recognised in legislation, the adoption policies of the respective departments in Queensland and Tasmania do recognise the cultural differences of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. In New South Wales every effort is made to place Aboriginal children with Aboriginal parents. Victoria, Queensland, South Australia and the Australian Capital Territory have restrictive eligibility criteria for adoptive parents for Aboriginal children.

In Victoria for example, the parent of an Aboriginal child can place conditions on a consent to adoption, that the child go to an Aboriginal family, or that a right of access to the child be granted to the natural parents, other relatives and members of the Aboriginal community.
(Stonehouse 1992)

In the Northern Territory, it is proposed that the new Adoption Act will ensure that every effort be made to place Aboriginal children with an appropriate family.

3 Adoptions 1991–92

All adoptions

During 1991–92 there were 1,052 adoption orders made in Australia. This was a decrease of 90 (8%) from the previous year.

The majority (72%) of adoptions were by non-relatives, with adoptions by step-parents accounting for 25% and other relatives 3% (Table 1).

Table 1: Persons adopted: arranging body by relationship of adoptive parents, 1991–92

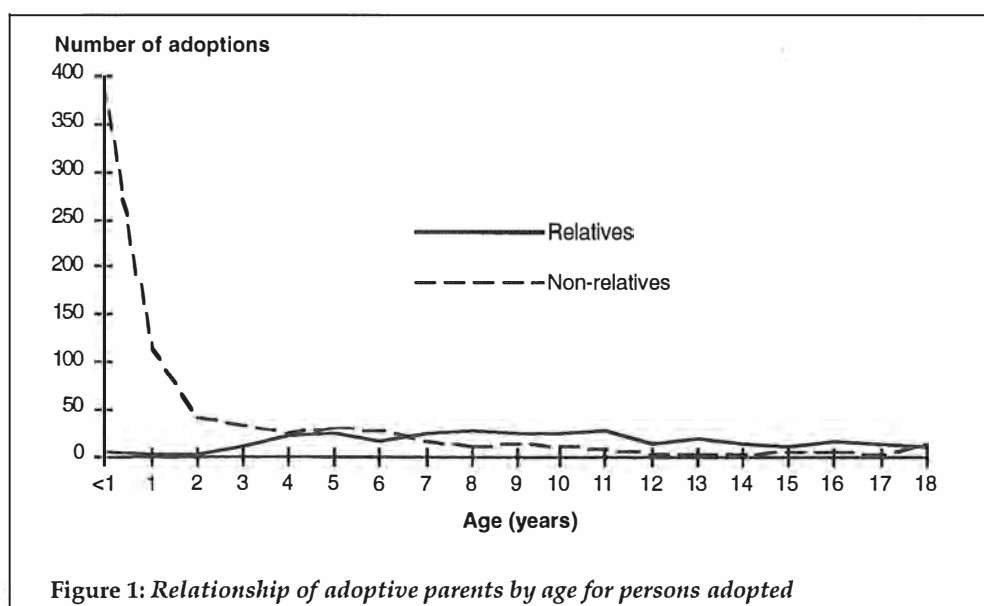
Arranging body	Relatives		Total	Non-relatives	Total
	Parents ^(a)	Other relatives			
State/Territory welfare department	195	26	221	617	^(b) 839
Non-government organisation	6	–	6	139	145
Other ^(c)	64	4	68	–	68
Total	265	30	295	756	1,052

(a) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales

(b) Includes one adoption where the relationship of the adoptive parents is unknown

(c) Arranged privately and legalised through solicitors

Children adopted by non-relatives are usually younger than those adopted by relatives. While 80% of children adopted by non-relatives were under five years of age, with 52% less than one year old, only 13% of children adopted by relatives were under five years of age. The majority (71%) of children adopted by relatives were aged between 5 and 14 years (Figure 1; Table 3).



Most adoptions (80%) were arranged through State and Territory welfare departments (Table 1). In Queensland, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory, all adoptions were arranged in this way. Of the 145 adoptions arranged by non-government organisations (14% of total adoptions), all were adoptions by non-relatives except six adoptions by parents in Victoria (Table 2).

Western Australia and New South Wales are the only States or Territories in which adoptions by relatives can be arranged through private individuals; these adoptions are processed through solicitors. In 1991–92 there were 68 adoptions arranged in this way in Western Australia; no data were available for New South Wales.

Adoptions by relatives

Of the 1,052 adoptions in Australia in 1991–92, 28% were by relatives. However, the proportion of total adoptions by relatives was much higher in Western Australia (64%), Tasmania (50%) and Queensland (47%) (Table 2). Adoptions by relatives in these three States totalled 215, or 73% of all adoptions by relatives in Australia, and reflects to some extent the missing data on adoptions by parents in New South Wales.

Almost all persons adopted by relatives were adopted by step-parents (265 out of 295). In Victoria, Tasmania and the Australian Capital Territory, there were no adoptions by relatives other than parents.

The majority (221 or 75%) of adoptions by relatives were arranged through State and Territory community services departments (Table 1).

Adoptions by non-relatives

Australian-born and overseas-born adoptees

Of the 756 persons adopted by non-relatives, 338 (45%) were born overseas. The proportion of persons adopted by non-relatives that were born overseas varied markedly between States and Territories, with Queensland having only 22% born overseas compared with 63% in South Australia and 56% in Western Australia (Figure 2; Table 6).

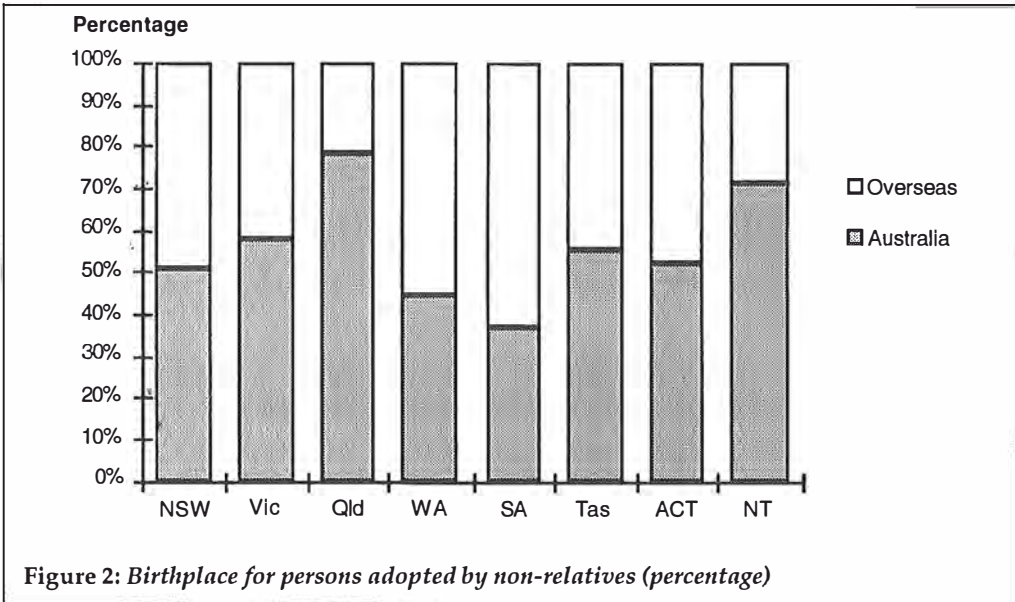
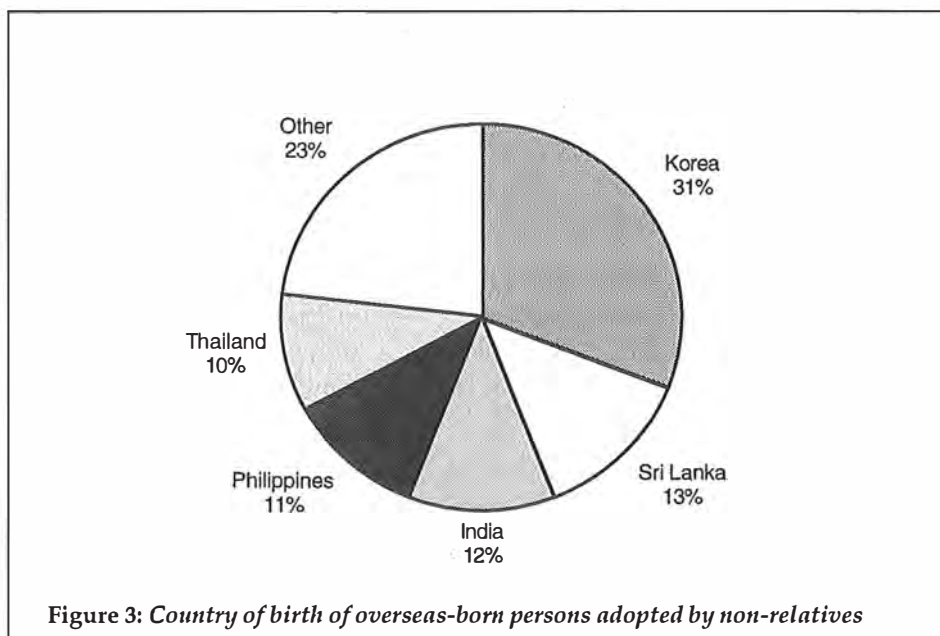


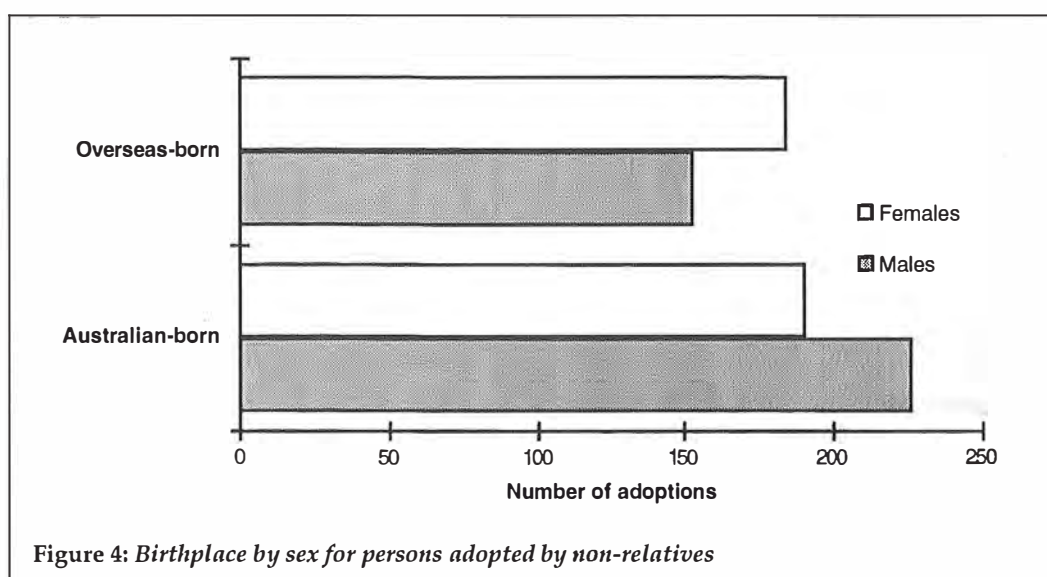
Figure 2: Birthplace for persons adopted by non-relatives (percentage)

Of the children adopted from overseas, 106 or 31% were born in Korea, with 43 or 13% born in Sri Lanka. The number of adoptions of children born in Korea is considerably lower than the figure of 203 for 1990–91 as Korea is no longer accepting applications for adoption (Figure 3; Table 7).



Of overseas-born adoptees 55% were female compared to 66% in 1990–91. This reflects the decrease in the number of adoptions from Korea, from where a high proportion of girls had been adopted previously. Females represented 46% of Australian-born persons adopted by non-relatives in 1991–92—slightly higher than in the previous year (45%).

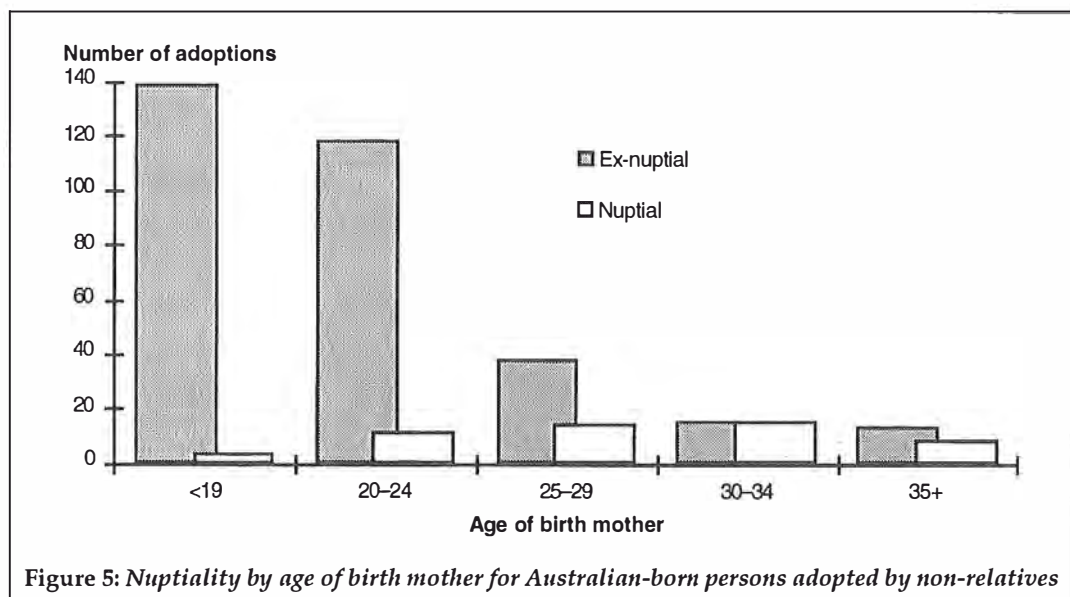
Of the adoptions of overseas-born persons, more girls than boys were adopted in most States and Territories, with the exception of Western Australia and the Australian Capital Territory with equal numbers of boys and girls, and South Australia where boys outnumbered girls (Table 8).



New South Wales received 69 (65%) of the 106 Korean persons adopted in Australia and 14 of the 15 persons adopted from Colombia. South Australia adopted 22 (65%) of the 34 persons from Thailand. This pattern reflects the process of adoption in Australia, with an agency establishing contacts in a particular country and generally dealing with prospective parents in its State or Territory (Table 8).

Nuptiality of Australian-born adoptees

The majority (83%) of adoptions of Australian-born persons to non-relatives involved an ex-nuptial child (348 out of 418). Of adoptions by non-relatives of an ex-nuptial child, 40% (140) were relinquished by unmarried mothers aged 19 or under, and 45% were relinquished by unmarried mothers in their twenties (Figure 5; Table 10).



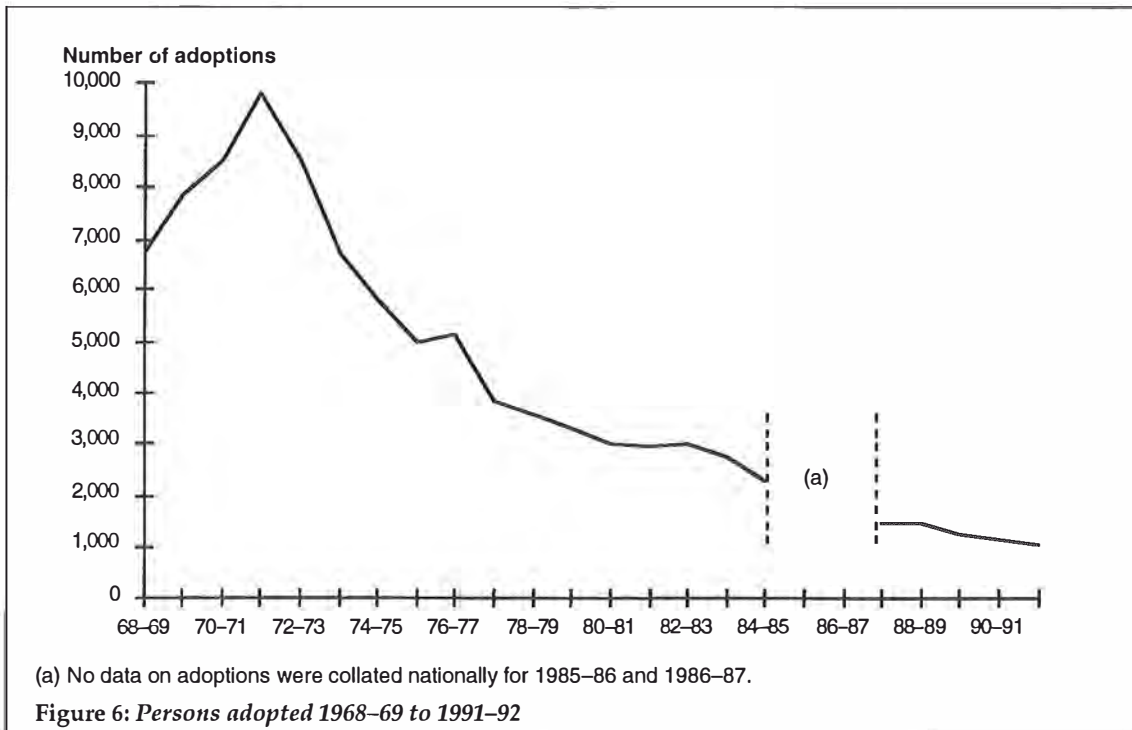
There were considerable variations in the proportion of nuptial adoptions between States and Territories, with 26% in Western Australia and 25% in New South Wales, and none in Victoria, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory (Table 11).

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adoptions

There were nine adoptions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander persons during 1991–92—seven males and two females. Although the prevailing view is that when it is deemed to be appropriate to adopt Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children they should be adopted by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people, just over half of the nine adoptions were by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people (see ‘Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander adoptions’ on page 5) (Table 12).

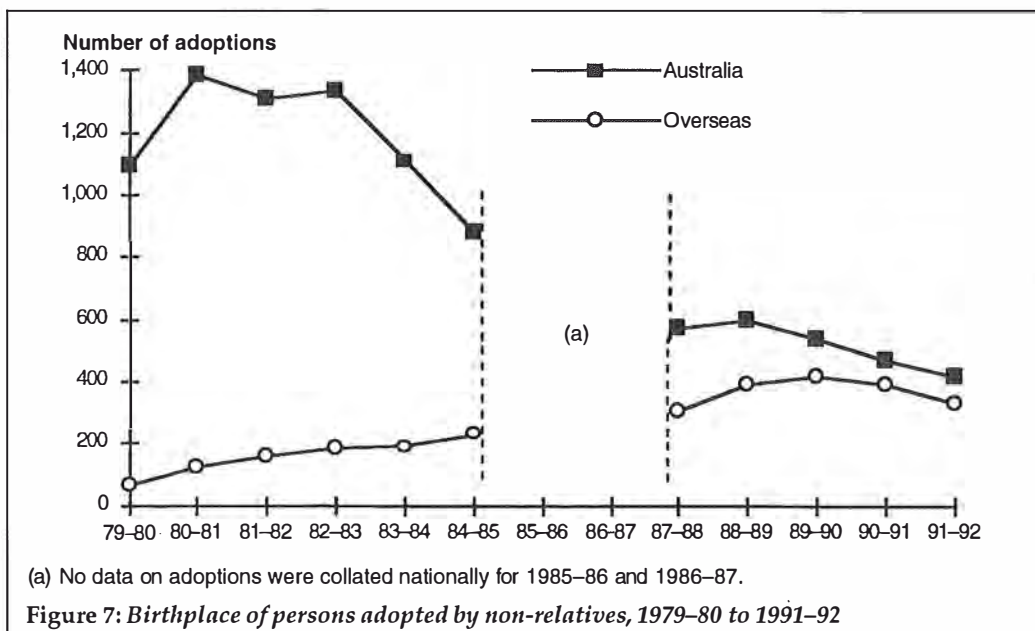
Changes over time

The number of adoptions in 1991–92, 1,052, was 90 fewer than for the previous year, continuing the decline evident since 1971–72, when 9,798 adoptions were registered (Figure 6; Table 14). The omission of adoptions by parents from the New South Wales figures since 1987–88 exaggerates this decline (there were 254 adoptions by parents and other relatives in New South Wales in 1984–85, the most recent year for which data were available) (Table 17).

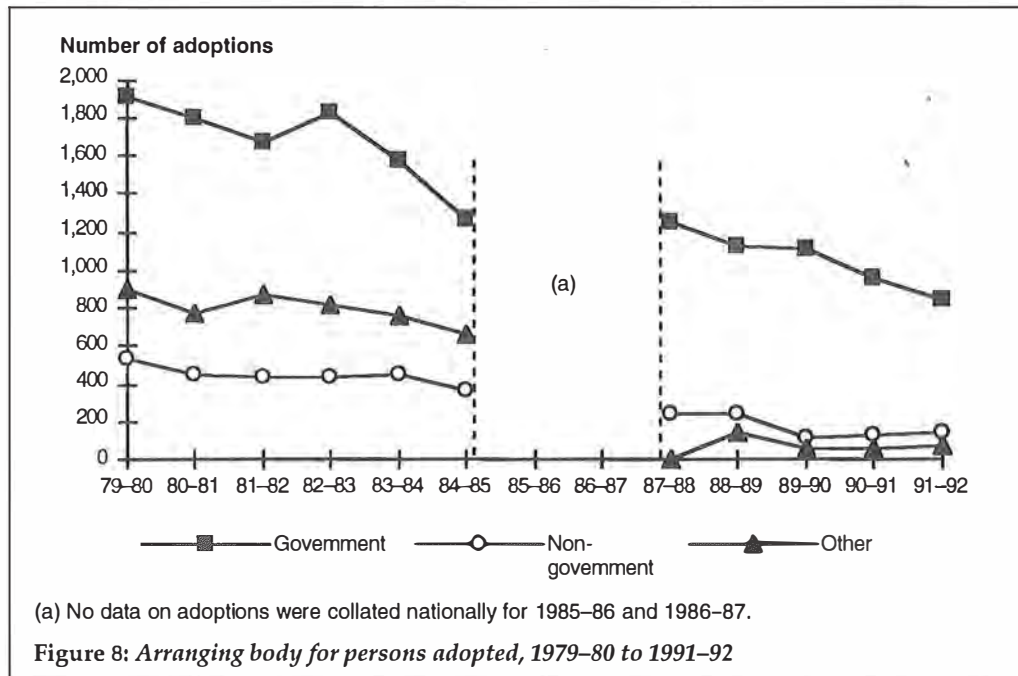


The number of adoptions by relatives has been declining steadily in recent years, although the number in 1991-92 was slightly higher than for the previous year (Table 17).

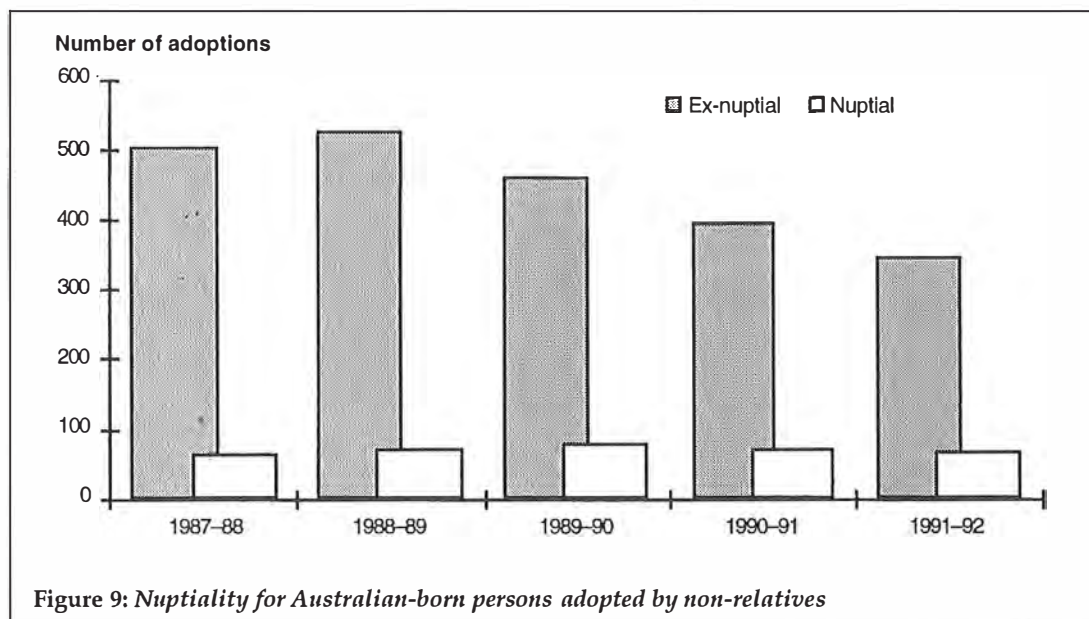
Adoptions by non-relatives have decreased by 944 (56%) since 1979-80. In the period for which data are available there has generally been a decline in the number of Australian-born persons adopted, offset slightly by a steady rise in the number of adoptions of overseas-born persons. The number of adoptions of Australian-born persons has continued to decline, while the number of overseas-born adoptions peaked at 420 in 1989-90 and has decreased over the two years to 338 in 1991-92 (Figure 7; Table 18).



The number of adoptions arranged through government agencies has decreased since 1979–80, from 1,909 to 839 in 1991–92. Adoptions not involving the government have also decreased from 1,428 to 213 over the same period. Government agencies arranged 80% of adoptions in 1991–92 compared to 57% in 1979–80 (Figure 8; Table 15).



For the five years for which data are available, the number of adoptions by non-relatives of Australian-born children who were born nuptially has been fairly steady. Those adoptions involving an ex-nuptial child have decreased steadily from 528 in 1988–89 to 348 in 1991–92 (Figure 9; Table 20).



Over five years from 1987–88 to 1991–92, almost all children legally available for adoption in the States and Territories for which data were available (New South Wales, Western Australia, the Australian Capital Territory and the Northern Territory) were either living with prospective adoptive parents (the largest category) or in foster care (Table 21).

References

Stonehouse, B. 1992 *Adoption Law in Australia*, Australian Family Briefings No. 1, Australian Institute of Family Studies, Melbourne, Victoria.

United Nations, General Assembly 1989 *The Convention on the Rights of the Child*.

4 Detailed tables

Table 2: Persons adopted: relationship to adoptive parents and arranging body by State/Territory, 1991–92

	NSW ^(b)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	TAS	ACT	NT	Australia
Parents									
Government	–	21	104	7	29	29	2	3	195
Non-government	–	6	–	–	–	–	–	–	6
Other ^(a)	–	–	–	64	–	–	–	–	64
<i>Total</i>	–	27	104	71	29	29	2	3	265
Other relatives									
Government	13	–	5	2	4	–	–	2	26
Non-government	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
Other ^(a)	–	–	–	4	–	–	–	–	4
<i>Total</i>	13	–	5	6	4	–	–	2	30
Non-relatives									
Government	247	109	123	43	49	18	21	7	617
Non-government	49	49	–	–	30	11	–	–	139
Other ^(a)	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–
<i>Total</i>	296	158	123	43	79	29	21	7	756
Total									
Government	^(c) 261	130	232	52	82	47	23	12	839
Non-government	49	55	–	–	30	11	–	–	145
Other ^(a)	–	–	–	68	–	–	–	–	68
<i>Total</i>	310	185	232	120	112	58	23	12	1,052

(a) Arranged privately and legalised through solicitors

(b) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales

(c) Includes one adoption where the relationship of the adoptive parents is unknown

Table 3: Persons adopted: age by relationship to adoptive parents and sex, 1991–92

Age	Adopted by relatives ^{(a)(b)}			Adopted by non-relatives			Total		
	Males	Females	Persons	Male	Females	Persons	Males	Females	Persons
Under 1 year	1	3	4	196	199	395	197	202	399
1–4 years	22	12	34	106	107	213	128	119	247
5–9 years	50	64	114	51	46	97	101	110	211
10–14 years	48	48	96	14	10	24	62	58	120
15 years and over	23	24	47	13	14	27	36	38	74
Total	144	151	295	380	376	756	524	527	^(c) 1,052

(a) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales

(b) There were 12 males and 18 females adopted by relatives other than parents; four under 1 year, five 1–4 years, eight 5–9 years, seven 10–14 years and six 15 years and over

(c) Includes one adoption where the relationship of the adoptive parents is unknown

Table 4: Persons adopted by relatives: State/Territory by sex, 1991–92

State/Territory	Males	Females	Persons
New South Wales ^(a)	4	9	13
Victoria	14	13	27
Queensland	57	52	109
Western Australia	35	42	77
South Australia	13	20	33
Tasmania	16	13	29
Australian Capital Territory	1	1	2
Northern Territory	4	1	5
Australia	144	151	295

(a) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales

Table 5: Persons adopted by relatives: age by State/Territory, 1991–92

Age	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
<1 year	4	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	4
1–4 years	4	1	11	11	4	3	–	–	34
5–9 years	3	4	42	41	10	11	1	2	114
10–14 years	1	12	39	19	14	9	–	2	96
15+ years	1	10	17	6	5	6	1	1	47
Total	13	27	109	77	33	29	2	5	295

(a) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales

Table 6: Persons adopted by non-relatives: State/Territory by birthplace, 1991–92

State/Territory	Australia		Overseas		Total	
	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
New South Wales	151	51.0	145	49.0	296	100
Victoria	91	57.6	67	42.4	158	100
Queensland	96	78.0	27	22.0	123	100
Western Australia	19	44.2	24	55.8	43	100
South Australia	29	36.7	50	63.3	79	100
Tasmania	16	55.2	13	44.8	29	100
Australian Capital Territory	11	52.4	10	47.6	21	100
Northern Territory	5	71.4	2	28.6	7	100
Australia	418	55.3	338	44.7	756	100

Table 7: Persons adopted by non-relatives: country of birth by age, 1991–92

Country of birth	Age (years)					Total
	Under 1	1–4	5–9	10–14	15 and over	
Australia	230	115	38	14	21	418
Overseas						
Brazil	4	3	3	–	–	10
Chile	7	2	–	–	–	9
Columbia	13	–	1	–	1	15
Fiji	4	4	3	2	1	14
India	13	13	13	2	–	41
Korea	81	19	5	–	1	106
Philippines	9	21	4	3	–	37
Sri Lanka	20	14	7	1	1	43
Thailand	3	12	18	–	1	34
Other overseas	11	10	5	2	1	29
Total overseas	165	98	59	10	6	338
Total	395	213	97	24	27	756

Table 8: Persons adopted by non-relatives: country of birth by State/Territory and sex, 1991–92

Country of birth	NSW		Vic		Qld		WA		SA		Tas		ACT		NT		Australia		Persons
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F	
Australia	85	66	50	41	49	47	10	9	14	15	7	9	9	2	3	2	227	191	418
Overseas																			
Brazil	6	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	1	–	–	6	4	10
Chile	5	3	–	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	5	4	9
Columbia	9	5	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	–	1	–	–	–	9	6	15
Fiji	2	3	1	2	–	1	–	–	–	1	–	3	–	–	–	1	3	11	14
India	4	9	5	9	1	1	1	6	1	1	–	2	–	1	–	–	12	29	41
Korea	25	44	4	7	1	7	2	3	5	3	1	1	2	1	–	–	40	66	106
Philippines	5	3	5	4	4	3	3	–	3	1	2	2	1	–	–	1	23	14	37
Sri Lanka	2	7	7	6	4	3	1	2	5	4	–	–	1	1	–	–	20	23	43
Thailand	1	3	2	2	1	–	–	–	15	7	1	1	1	–	–	–	21	13	34
Other overseas	3	5	4	8	1	–	5	1	1	1	–	–	–	–	–	–	14	15	29
Total overseas	62	83	28	39	12	15	12	12	30	20	4	9	5	5	–	2	153	185	338
Total	147	149	78	80	61	62	22	21	44	35	11	18	14	7	3	4	380	376	756

M = males F = females

Table 9: Persons adopted by non-relatives: age by State/Territory, 1991–92

Age (years)	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
Under 1	208	35	64	4	46	16	17	5	395
1–4	52	90	27	22	13	6	1	2	213
5–9	20	27	15	10	18	4	3	–	97
10–14	3	5	8	6	1	1	–	–	24
15 and over	13	1	9	1	1	2	–	–	27
Total	296	158	123	43	79	29	21	7	756

Table 10: Australian-born persons adopted by non-relatives: age of birth mother by nuptiality and sex of adopted person, 1991–92

Age of birth mother	Nuptial			Ex-nuptial			Total		
	M	F	P	M	F	P	M	F	P
14 years	–	–	–	3	1	4	3	1	4
15 years	–	–	–	6	4	10	6	4	10
16 years	–	–	–	12	6	18	12	6	18
17 years	–	–	–	21	15	36	^(a) 22	15	37
18 years	–	–	–	16	12	28	16	12	28
19 years	2	2	4	22	21	43	24	23	47
20–24 years	8	3	11	65	53	118	73	^(b) 58	131
25–29 years	6	8	14	19	19	38	25	27	52
30–34 years	8	7	15	9	6	15	17	13	30
35–39 years	2	5	7	3	6	9	5	11	16
40+ years	1	1	2	2	2	4	3	3	6
Unknown	10	4	14	11	14	25	21	18	39
Total	37	30	67	189	159	348	227	191	418

M = males F = females P = persons

(a) Includes one adoption where nuptiality is not known

(b) Includes two adoptions where nuptiality is not known

Table 11: Australian-born persons adopted by non-relatives: State/Territory by nuptiality, 1991–92

State/Territory	Nuptial	Ex-nuptial	Total
New South Wales	37	113	^(a) 151
Victoria	–	91	91
Queensland	21	73	^(b) 96
Western Australia	5	14	19
South Australia	2	27	29
Tasmania	2	14	16
Australian Capital Territory	–	11	11
Northern Territory	–	5	5
Australia	67	348	418

(a) Includes one adoption where nuptiality is not known

(b) Includes two adoptions where nuptiality is not known

Table 12: Persons adopted: Aboriginality and sex of adopted person by relationship to adopted person and Aboriginality of adoptive parents, 1991–92

Aboriginality/sex of adopted person	Adopted by relatives		Adopted by non-relatives		Total		Total
	ATSI	Other	ATSI	Other	ATSI	Other	
ATSI							
Males	1	—	3	2	4	2	(a)7
Females	1	—	—	1	1	1	2
Persons	2	—	3	3	5	3	9
Other							
Males	—	130	2	323	2	453	(b)458
Females	—	129	1	337	1	466	(c)469
Persons	—	259	3	660	3	919	927
Total							
Males	1	130	5	325	6	455	(d)467
Females	1	129	1	338	2	467	(d)473
Persons	2	259	6	663	8	922	940

ATSI = Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

Note: Data not available for South Australia or for adoptions by parents in New South Wales

(a) Includes one adoption where the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child is not known

(b) Includes three adoptions where the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child is not known

(c) Includes two adoptions where the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child is not known

(d) In addition to the extra adoptions mentioned in footnotes (a) (b) and (c), includes a further two adoptions where the Aboriginality of the child and the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child is not known.

Table 13: Persons adopted: relationship of adoptive parents to adopted person and Aboriginality of adopted person by State/Territory, 1991–92

Relationship/Aboriginality of adopted person	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT
Relatives								
ATSI	1	—	1	—	n.a.	—	—	—
Other	11	27	108	77	n.a.	29	2	5
Non-relatives								
ATSI	4	—	1	—	n.a.	—	—	1
Other	284	158	122	43	n.a.	29	21	6
Total								
ATSI	(b)6	—	2	—	n.a.	—	—	1
Other	(c)300	185	230	120	n.a.	58	23	11
Total	(d)310	185	232	120	n.a.	58	23	12

ATSI = Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander

(a) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales

(b) Includes one adoption where the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child is not known

(c) Includes five adoptions where the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child is not known

(d) In addition to the extra adoptions mentioned in footnotes (b) and (c), includes a further four adoptions where the Aboriginality of the child and the relationship of the adoptive parents to the child is not known.

Table 14: Persons adopted: number of adoptions by State/Territory, 1968–69 to 1991–92

Year	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1968–69	1,715	1,789	1,448	540	797	348	100	36	6,773
1969–70	2,346	2,031	1,500	703	834	243	102	61	7,820
1970–71	3,275	2,057	1,562	301	879	289	122	68	8,553
1971–72	4,539	1,768	1,774	457	776	303	127	54	9,798
1972–73	3,315	1,765	1,678	717	649	268	121	29	8,542
1973–74	1,936	1,557	1,458	783	558	268	120	25	6,705
1974–75	1,799	1,168	1,394	528	551	243	123	33	5,839
1975–76	1,449	1,032	1,112	531	549	211	87	19	4,990
1976–77	1,770	908	1,014	497	658	185	82	74	5,188
1977–78	1,068	951	660	417	506	164	55	46	3,867
1978–79	1,020	956	563	380	415	173	56	40	3,603
1979–80	853	914	450	387	475	148	85	25	3,337
1980–81	794	711	454	305	505	140	74	35	3,018
1981–82	855	753	467	261	396	119	81	39	2,971
1982–83	926	692	555	270	424	117	59	29	3,072
1983–84	698	686	517	250	438	87	51	43	2,770
1984–85	623	631	331	293	222	97	74	23	2,294
1985–86 ^(b)	n.a.	n.a.	359	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1986–87 ^(b)	n.a.	n.a.	268	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.
1987–88	^(a) 280	114	306	191	416	120	36	28	1,491
1988–89	^(a) 335	288	353	147	221	85	47	25	1,501
1989–90	^(a) 360	212	278	128	174	71	50	21	1,294
1990–91	^(a) 329	258	210	136	103	61	25	20	1,142
1991–92	^(a) 310	185	232	120	112	58	23	12	1,052

(a) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales from 1987–88

(b) No data on adoptions were collated nationally for 1985–86 and 1986–87

Source: *Adoptions Australia*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, catalogue no. 4406.0, 1979–80 to 1984–85 and *Adoptions National Data Collection WELSTAT* 1987–88 to 1989–90.

Table 15: Persons adopted: arranging body, 1979–80 to 1991–92

Year	Government	Non-government	Other ^(a)	Total
1979–80	1,909	528	900	3,337
1980–81	1,802	446	770	3,018
1981–82	1,670	430	871	2,971
1982–83	1,827	435	810	3,072
1983–84	1,567	449	754	2,770
1984–85	1,270	369	655	2,294
1985–86 and 1986–87 ^(b)		not available		
1987–88 ^(c)	1,246	243	2	1,491
1988–89 ^(c)	1,118	240	143	1,501
1989–90 ^(c)	1,114	117	63	1,294
1990–91 ^(c)	955	132	55	1,142
1991–92 ^(c)	839	145	68	1,052

(a) Arranged privately and legalised through solicitors

(b) No data on adoptions were collated nationally for 1985–86 and 1986–87

(c) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales from 1987–88

Source: *Adoptions Australia*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, catalogue no. 4406.0, 1979–80 to 1984–85 and *Adoptions National Data Collection WELSTAT* 1987–88 to 1989–90.

Table 16: Persons adopted: arranging body by State/Territory, 1981–82 to 1991–92

Year/Arranging body	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1981–82									
Government	321	146	467	180	335	101	81	39	1,670
Non-government	147	164	–	81	25	13	–	–	430
Other ^(a)	387	443	–	–	36	5	–	–	871
<i>Total</i>	<i>855</i>	<i>753</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>396</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>2,971</i>
1982–83									
Government	436	123	555	181	341	103	59	29	1,827
Non-government	126	189	–	89	17	14	–	–	435
Other ^(a)	364	380	–	–	66	–	–	–	810
<i>Total</i>	<i>926</i>	<i>692</i>	<i>555</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>424</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>3,072</i>
1983–84									
Government	271	120	517	150	342	73	51	43	1,567
Non-government	88	151	–	100	96	14	–	–	449
Other ^(a)	339	415	–	–	–	–	–	–	754
<i>Total</i>	<i>698</i>	<i>686</i>	<i>517</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>438</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>2,770</i>
1984–85									
Government	237	139	331	168	208	90	74	23	1,270
Non-government	114	111	–	125	12	7	–	–	369
Other ^(a)	272	381	–	–	2	–	–	–	655
<i>Total</i>	<i>623</i>	<i>631</i>	<i>331</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>2,294</i>
1985–86 and 1986–87^(b)									
									not available
1987–88^(c)									
Government	195	68	306	115	392	106	36	28	1,246
Non-government	85	46	–	74	24	14	–	–	243
Other ^(a)	–	–	–	2	–	–	–	–	2
<i>Total</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>416</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>1,491</i>
1988–89^(c)									
Government	240	61	353	103	211	78	47	25	1,118
Non-government	95	84	–	44	10	7	–	–	240
Other ^(a)	–	143	–	–	–	–	–	–	143
<i>Total</i>	<i>335</i>	<i>288</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>221</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>1,501</i>
1989–90^(c)									
Government	332	153	278	65	159	56	50	21	1,114
Non-government	28	59	–	–	15	15	–	–	117
Other ^(a)	–	–	–	63	–	–	–	–	63
<i>Total</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>278</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>1,294</i>
1990–91^(c)									
Government	287	199	210	81	87	46	25	20	955
Non-government	42	59	–	–	16	15	–	–	132
Other ^(a)	–	–	–	55	–	–	–	–	55
<i>Total</i>	<i>329</i>	<i>258</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>1,142</i>
1991–92^(c)									
Government	261	130	232	52	82	47	23	12	839
Non-government	49	55	–	–	30	11	–	–	145
Other ^(a)	–	–	–	68	–	–	–	–	68
<i>Total</i>	<i>310</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>12</i>	<i>1,052</i>

(a) Arranged privately and legalised through solicitors

(b) No data on adoptions were collated nationally for 1985–86 and 1986–87. In Queensland there were 359 government-arranged adoptions in 1985–86 and 268 government-arranged adoptions in 1986–87.

(c) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales from 1987–88

Source: *Adoptions Australia*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, catalogue no. 4406.0, 1979–80 to 1984–85 and *Adoptions National Data Collection WELSTAT* 1987–88 to 1989–90.

Table 17: *Persons adopted: relationship to adoptive parents by State/Territory, 1979–80 to 1991–92*

Year/Relationship of adoptive parents	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1979–80									
Relative	334	524	168	201	288	58	53	11	1,637
Non-relative	519	390	282	186	187	90	32	14	1,700
<i>Total</i>	<i>853</i>	<i>914</i>	<i>450</i>	<i>387</i>	<i>475</i>	<i>148</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>3,337</i>
1980–81									
Relative	347	379	153	167	309	65	41	23	1,484
Non-relative	447	332	301	138	196	75	33	12	1,534
<i>Total</i>	<i>794</i>	<i>711</i>	<i>454</i>	<i>305</i>	<i>505</i>	<i>140</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>3,018</i>
1981–82									
Relative	396	445	164	137	230	56	42	24	1,494
Non-relative	459	308	303	124	166	63	39	15	1,477
<i>Total</i>	<i>855</i>	<i>753</i>	<i>467</i>	<i>261</i>	<i>396</i>	<i>119</i>	<i>81</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>2,971</i>
1982–83									
Relative	384	380	257	134	297	55	24	17	1,548
Non-relative	542	312	298	136	127	62	35	12	1,524
<i>Total</i>	<i>926</i>	<i>692</i>	<i>555</i>	<i>270</i>	<i>424</i>	<i>117</i>	<i>59</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>3,072</i>
1983–84									
Relative	309	415	196	135	306	41	18	32	1,452
Non-relative	389	271	321	115	132	46	33	11	1,318
<i>Total</i>	<i>698</i>	<i>686</i>	<i>517</i>	<i>250</i>	<i>438</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>2,770</i>
1984–85									
Relative	254	375	130	162	132	51	42	11	1,157
Non-relative	369	256	201	131	90	46	32	12	1,137
<i>Total</i>	<i>623</i>	<i>631</i>	<i>331</i>	<i>293</i>	<i>222</i>	<i>97</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>2,294</i>
1985–86 and 1986–87^(a)									
									not available
1987–88									
Relative ^(b)	4	5	131	89	301	57	10	8	605
Non-relative	276	109	175	102	115	63	26	20	886
<i>Total</i>	<i>280</i>	<i>114</i>	<i>306</i>	<i>191</i>	<i>416</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>36</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>1,491</i>
1988–89									
Relative ^(b)	2	112	146	60	131	20	19	10	500
Non-relative	332	176	207	87	90	65	28	15	1,000
<i>Total</i>	^(c) <i>335</i>	<i>288</i>	<i>353</i>	<i>147</i>	<i>221</i>	<i>85</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>1,501</i>
1989–90									
Relative ^(b)	n.a.	27	120	81	59	22	11	7	327
Non-relative	360	185	158	47	115	49	39	14	967
<i>Total</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>212</i>	<i>278</i>	<i>128</i>	<i>174</i>	<i>71</i>	<i>50</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>1,294</i>
1990–91									
Relative ^(b)	9	26	95	80	36	20	2	9	277
Non-relative	320	232	115	56	67	41	23	11	865
<i>Total</i>	<i>329</i>	<i>258</i>	<i>210</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>103</i>	<i>61</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>1,142</i>
1991–92									
Relative ^(b)	13	27	109	77	33	29	2	5	295
Non-relative	296	158	123	43	79	29	21	7	756
<i>Total</i>	^(c) <i>310</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>120</i>	<i>112</i>	<i>58</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>12</i>	^(c) <i>1,052</i>

(a) No data on adoptions were collated nationally for 1985–86 and 1986–87. In Queensland there were 148 adoptions by relatives and 211 by non-relatives in 1985–86, and in 1986–87 101 adoptions by relatives and 167 by non-relatives.

(b) Adoptions by parents not available for New South Wales from 1987–88.

(c) Includes one adoption where relationship to adoptive parents is not known

Source: *Adoptions Australia*, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, catalogue no. 4406.0, 1979–80 to 1984–85 and *Adoptions National Data Collection WELSTAT* 1987–88 to 1989–90.

Table 18: Persons adopted by non-relatives: birthplace by State/Territory, 1987–88 to 1991–92

Year/ Birthplace	NSW	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1987–88									
Australia	171	109	153	65	32	29	11	8	578
Overseas	105	n.a.	22	37	83	34	15	12	^(a) 308
<i>Total</i>	<i>276</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>175</i>	<i>102</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>63</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>20</i>	<i>886</i>
1988–89									
Australia	184	145	159	51	26	24	11	6	606
Overseas	148	31	48	36	64	41	17	9	394
<i>Total</i>	<i>332</i>	<i>176</i>	<i>207</i>	<i>87</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>15</i>	<i>1,000</i>
1989–90									
Australia	144	135	128	27	74	26	7	6	547
Overseas	216	50	30	20	41	23	32	8	420
<i>Total</i>	<i>360</i>	<i>185</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>47</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>49</i>	<i>39</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>967</i>
1990–91									
Australia	158	127	90	34	24	25	7	7	472
Overseas	162	105	25	22	43	16	16	4	393
<i>Total</i>	<i>320</i>	<i>232</i>	<i>115</i>	<i>56</i>	<i>67</i>	<i>41</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>865</i>
1991–92									
Australia	151	91	96	19	29	16	11	5	418
Overseas	145	67	27	24	50	13	10	2	338
<i>Total</i>	<i>296</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>123</i>	<i>43</i>	<i>79</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>756</i>

(a) Excludes Victoria for which data were not available

Source: Adoptions National Data Collection WELSTAT 1987–88 to 1989–90

Table 19: Persons adopted by non-relatives: birthplace, 1979–80 to 1991–92

Year	Australia	Overseas	Unknown	Total
1979–80	1,094	66	540	1,700
1980–81	1,388	127	19	1,534
1981–82	1,311	162	4	1,477
1982–83	1,336	188	–	1,524
1983–84	1,108	197	13	1,318
1984–85	888	235	14	1,137
1985–86	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	^(a) n.a.
1986–87	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.	^(a) n.a.
1987–88	578	308	–	^(b) 886
1988–89	606	394	–	1,000
1989–90	547	420	–	967
1990–91	472	393	–	865
1991–92	418	338	–	756

(a) No data on adoptions were collated nationally for 1985–86 and 1986–87

(b) Excludes overseas-born adoptees for Victoria for which data were not available

Source: Adoptions Australia, Australian Bureau of Statistics, Canberra, catalogue no. 4406.0, 1979–80 to 1984–85 and Adoptions National Data Collection WELSTAT 1987–88 to 1989–90.

Table 20: Australian-born persons adopted by non-relatives: nuptiality by State/Territory, 1987–88 to 1991–92

Year/ Nuptiality	NSW ^(a)	Vic	Qld	WA	SA	Tas	ACT	NT	Australia
1987–88									
Nuptial	22	8	24	8	2	1	–	–	65
Ex-nuptial	139	101	129	57	30	28	11	8	503
<i>Total</i>	<i>171</i>	<i>109</i>	<i>153</i>	<i>65</i>	<i>32</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>8</i>	<i>578</i>
1988–89									
Nuptial	18	7	30	8	6	3	–	1	73
Ex-nuptial	162	138	128	43	20	21	11	5	528
<i>Total</i>	<i>184</i>	<i>145</i>	^(b) <i>159</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>606</i>
1989–90									
Nuptial	16	6	11	7	37	2	1	–	80
Ex-nuptial	126	129	113	20	37	24	6	6	461
<i>Total</i>	<i>144</i>	<i>135</i>	^(c) <i>128</i>	<i>27</i>	<i>74</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>6</i>	<i>547</i>
1990–91									
Nuptial	20	24	12	9	3	3	–	1	72
Ex-nuptial	137	103	78	25	21	22	7	4	397
<i>Total</i>	<i>158</i>	<i>127</i>	<i>90</i>	<i>34</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>7</i>	^(d) <i>7</i>	<i>472</i>
1991–92									
Nuptial	37	–	21	5	2	2	–	–	67
Ex-nuptial	113	91	73	14	27	14	11	5	348
<i>Total</i>	<i>151</i>	<i>91</i>	^(d) <i>96</i>	<i>19</i>	<i>29</i>	<i>16</i>	<i>11</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>418</i>

(a) Includes adoptions where nuptiality was not known; ten in 1987–88, four in 1988–89, two in 1989–90 and one in 1990–91

(b) Includes one adoption where nuptiality was not known

(c) Includes four adoptions where nuptiality was not known

(d) Includes two adoptions where nuptiality was not known

Source: Adoptions National Data Collection WELSTAT 1987–88 to 1989–90

Table 21: Children legally available for adoption:^(a) location of child by State/Territory at 30 June, 1988 to 1992

Year/Location	NSW	WA	ACT	NT
At 30 June 1988				
Prospective adoptive parents	123	91	23	41
Foster care	65	2	—	4
Hospital/nursing home	1	2	—	—
Other	—	3	—	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>189</i>	<i>98</i>	<i>23</i>	<i>46</i>
At 30 June 1989				
Prospective adoptive parents	115	57	26	14
Foster care	17	9	—	7
Hospital/nursing home	—	—	—	1
Other	3	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	<i>135</i>	<i>66</i>	<i>26</i>	<i>22</i>
At 30 June 1990				
Prospective adoptive parents	103	48	22	19
Foster care	32	3	—	6
Hospital/nursing home	1	—	—	1
Other	—	—	—	—
<i>Total</i>	<i>136</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>22</i>	<i>26</i>
At 30 June 1991				
Prospective adoptive parents	49	15	5	10
Foster care	2	1	2	2
Hospital/nursing home	—	—	—	—
Other	—	1	—	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>51</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>13</i>
At 30 June 1992				
Prospective adoptive parents	89	26	1	9
Foster care	20	9	2	1
Hospital/nursing home	—	—	—	—
Other	1	—	2	1
<i>Total</i>	<i>110</i>	<i>35</i>	<i>5</i>	<i>11</i>

(a) See 'Explanation of terms', page 24

Source: *Adoptions National Data Collection WELSTAT 1987–88 to 1989–90*

5 Explanation of terms

Adoption

An adoption is the legal effect of an adoption order. It establishes a child or adult as if he or she were the issue of a particular person or persons. It also establishes the adopting persons as the parents of the child, as if the child had been born to them.

Adoption order

An adoption order is a court administrative order made under adoption legislation. It excludes legitimation orders made under the *Commonwealth Marriage Act 1961*.

Adopted person

An adopted person is a child or adult who has been established by an adoption order as if he or she were the issue of a particular person or persons.

Adoptive parent

An adoptive parent is a person who has become the parent of a child or adult as the result of an adoption order. A de facto partner of a parent may (in some States at least) become an adoptive parent.

Adult

An adult is a person aged 18 years or more.

Age of child

For the purpose of these statistics, the age of an adopted person is based on the date of the adoption order in completed years, or in completed calendar months where the age is less than one year. In New South Wales, age is based on the date of placement (i.e. the date on which the adopted person began living with the adoptive parents). This also applies to children adopted by non-relatives in South Australia and Tasmania. It should be noted that the date of placement could be a considerable time before the date of the adoption order.

Age of birth mother

The age of the birth mother is the age, in complete years, at the date of birth of the child.

Child

A child is a person aged under 18 years. Under State or Territory adoption legislation, it can include an older person for whom an adoption order is sought or has been made.

Child legally available for adoption by non-relatives

A child is legally available for adoption by non-relatives if all the legally necessary consents by relatives or others to the child's adoption have been obtained or legally dispensed with. The consent of the Minister, Director, or other official of the State or Territory welfare department does not have to be obtained for the child to be available for adoption.

Children whose adoption has been deferred, or who are already living with prospective adoptive parents, are included in this category. Children brought to Australia from overseas are included only if they are legally available for adoption under Australian legislation. Orphan children under the guardianship of a State or Territory welfare department are

included only if an adoption consent was signed by at least one of the child's parents, or if active steps are being taken to find adoptive parents for the child.

Guardianship

In this publication, guardianship refers to the allocation of responsibility for a child's total welfare to a couple or individual (rather than to a welfare department or other authorised department). Guardianship is not regarded as adoption, although some children under guardianship may be included in the count of children legally available for adoption.

Location of child

A child legally available for adoption is classified to one of the following categories of location:

Living with prospective adoptive parents

A child is living with prospective adoptive parents under the supervision of an adoption agency. The prospective parents cannot be in receipt of a foster allowance for the support of the child. Cases where a child's foster parents have applied to adopt him/her are included only if the foster parents no longer receive a foster allowance for the child.

Foster care

A child is regarded as being in foster care when he or she is living in a private household apart from natural or adoptive parents and is being cared for by one or more adults approved by the welfare department. The adults are acting as substitute parents to the child and are being paid a regular allowance for the child's support by a government authority or non-government organisation.

Hospital/nursing home

A child is living in a hospital or nursing home if he or she is living in an establishment mainly engaged in providing hospital (including psychiatric or mental hospital) facilities such as diagnostic medical or surgical services as well as continuous in-patient nursing care, or nursing or convalescent home facilities (including the provision of nursing or medical care as a basic part of the service).

Other

This category includes all children legally available for adoption living other than with prospective adoptive parents, in foster care, or in hospitals or nursing homes. It includes children living in arrangements such as boarding schools, prisons, residential adult care establishments, with adults who are not their prospective adoptive parents or foster parents, living independently, or on unauthorised absence from their usual location.

Nuptiality of adopted person

Nuptial

The birth of an adopted person is classified as nuptial if the person's natural parents were legally married to each other at the time of the person's birth. Cases where the adopted person's birth father was legally married to the person's birth mother but died before the person's birth are included

Ex-nuptial

The birth of an adopted person is classified as ex-nuptial if the person's natural parents were not legally married to each other at the time of the person's birth. Cases where the adopted person's birth father was legally married to the person's birth mother but died before the person's birth are excluded.

Relative

A relative is a parent or other relative as defined below.

Parent

A parent is a natural (i. e. biological) parent, spouse of a natural parent or adoptive parent through a previous adoption order, or spouse of an adoptive parent. Foster parents are excluded unless they fit the definition otherwise.

Other relative

An other relative is a grandparent, brother, sister, aunt or uncle, whether the relationship is of the whole blood or half-blood or by marriage, and includes relationships based on the adoption of any person, or traced through, or to, a person whose parents were not married to each other at the time of the birth or subsequently.

Non-relative

A non-relative is a person who is not a parent or other relative, as defined above.

Arranging body

An arranging body is an agency authorised under legislation to approve and arrange adoptions. Adoptions can be arranged by:

Government

A government authority is an agency in Australia that is owned or controlled by the Commonwealth, State or Territory government, including departments and statutory authorities, State health departments, and public hospitals not run by religious institutions. This category is only used in the time series, because in earlier years some adoptions were arranged through government departments other than the welfare departments.

State and Territory welfare department

A State and Territory welfare department is one of the contributing departments listed on page iii. In recent years, all adoptions arranged through government departments have been arranged through welfare departments.

Non-government

A non-government agency is an agency in Australia that is not owned or controlled by the Commonwealth government or by a State, Territory or local government. This includes public hospitals run by religious institutions, private hospitals, church organisations, religious communities, registered charities, voluntary agencies, non-profit organisations, companies, and co-operative societies and associations.

Those licensed to arrange adoptions in 1991–92 were:

New South Wales

Centacare Adoption Services

Anglican Adoption Agency

Barnardo's Australia

Seventh-Day Adventist Adoption Agency (did not arrange any adoptions in 1991–92)

Victoria

Copelen Street Family Services

Western Family Services

Gippsland Family Services

Catholic Family Welfare Bureau

Jewish Welfare Society (did not arrange any adoptions in 1991–92)

L.D.S. Social Services (did not arrange any adoptions in 1991–92)

South Australia

Australians Aiding Children Adoptions Agency

Tasmania

Catholic Private Adoption Agency

Other

Some adoptions by relatives are arranged without the involvement of an organisation, where arrangements are made between parties and the legal aspects handled through solicitors.

These adoptions refer to private, local and overseas adoptions by relatives and local adoptions by step-parents. In 1991–92, some relative adoptions were arranged in this way in New South Wales and Western Australia; data for New South Wales are not collected (see the section 'Adoptions by relatives' page 7).

6 Related AIHW publications

Child Welfare Series

Number 1: *Adoptions Australia, 1990–91*

Number 2: *Child abuse and neglect Australia, 1990–91*

Number 3: *Children under care and protection orders, 1990–91*

Other publications

Australia's Welfare 1993: Services and Assistance



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