

2008

**LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY FOR THE
AUSTRALIAN CAPITAL TERRITORY**

ADOPTION AMENDMENT BILL 2008

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Presented by
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Adoption Amendment Bill 2008

Outline

The *Adoption Amendment Bill 2008* would amend the *Adoption Act 1993* to:

1. Remove the requirement for a court to be satisfied there are “exceptional circumstances” to justify an adoption order for a person aged 18 years or over, while retaining the requirement that the court must be satisfied the person is of “good repute”; and
2. Remove the prohibition on adoption orders in respect of a person who is or has been married.

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Detail

Clause 1 — Name of Act

The short title of the Act – *Adoption Amendment Act 2008*.

Clause 2 — Commencement

Provides for the Act to commence the day after it is notified on the Legislation Register.

Clause 3 — Legislation amended

Notes that this Act amends the *Adoption Act 1993*.

Clause 4 — Child over 18

This clause omits paragraph 10(b) of the Act. This paragraph requires the court to be satisfied that there are “exceptional circumstances” to justify an adoption order for a person over the age of 18 years.

Clause 5 – Married child

This clause substitutes a new section 13 to remove any doubt that an adoption order may be made for a child who is or has been married.