

Australian Capital Territory

Adoption (Fees) Determination 2026 (No 1)

Disallowable instrument DI2026–96

made under the

Adoption Act 1993, section 118 (Determination of fees)

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

The *Adoption Act 1993* (the Act) commenced operation on 1 July 1993. The Act provides the legal framework for adoptions in the ACT.

Section 118 of the Act provides for fees to be determined in respect of these services. Fees are charged in respect of Intercountry Adoption as this program is not viewed as a service to children of the ACT community. Fees assist in part reimbursement of the infrastructure necessary to maintain an overseas adoption program.

"Known" child adoptions are of children born or permanently residing in Australia who have a pre-existing relationship with the adoptive parent(s), such as step-parents, other relatives and carers.

Fees are charged for step-parent adoption as these services are viewed as non-essential as a range of alternative options are available to these children through Family Law provisions.

Fees are not charged for local adoptions when the child or young person is in out of home care.

There are five different adoption fees:

Intercountry Adoption – this type of adoption is for families residing in the ACT wishing to adopt a child or children born overseas. Intercountry adoption attracts four fees for components at four different stages of the adoptions process:

- Two-day education seminar
- Intercountry adoption application
- Intercountry adoption private assessor
- Intercountry adoption post placement reports

Step-parent or Known Adoption – this type of adoption is for families residing in the ACT wishing to adopt a relative or known child. Step-parent or known adoption attracts only one fee:

- Step-parent / known adoption application and assessment

Children, Youth and Families increased these ongoing fees and charges for the 2026-27 financial year by the Wage Price Index of 3.25% for 2026-27 based on the previous determination (DI2025-116).

	Old Rate (2025-26)	+3.25% WPI (2026-27)
Two-day education seminar	\$425.00	\$439.00
Intercountry adoption application	\$2,076.00	\$2,143.00
Intercountry adoption private assessor	\$3,520.00	\$3,634.00
Intercountry adoption post placement reports	\$1,429.00	\$1,475.00
Step-parent / known adoption application and assessment	\$1,256.00	\$1,297.00