

- [http://web.mac.com/brucecook4/Site/Aust %26 Intl Adoption Links.html](http://web.mac.com/brucecook4/Site/Aust%20Intl%20Adoption%20Links.html)

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- **Who We Are**

- Petition
- Advocate Changes In Adption
- Help Orphans & Orphanages
- Friends of Orphan Angels
- News & Media
- Aust & Intl Adoption Links

ORPHAN ANGELS

(temporary site)

Orphan Angels was originally formed by Deborra-Lee Furness to advocate for
change in Australia's Adoption Laws and Practices.

below photo courtesy of Sunday Telegraph



MISSION

Advocating reforms through all available channels to provide children in need with nurturing homes. We wish to raise awareness of the global crisis of

abandoned children, participate in creating a pro adoption community & illustrate how anyone can transform the life of a child in need.

We strive to create an opportunity for each child to fulfil their birthright and realise their potential.....

Key People

Deborra-Lee Furness	Founder & Chair
Janine Weir	President
Mark Byrne	“Peak Body” Representative
Catherine de Leede	
Cora Doody	
Tony Dunne	Pres - IAFQ (Intl Adpt Families Qld)
Stephen Finkel	Pres -AKFG (Aust Korean Frdshp Grp)

Email Contact : enquiries@orphanangels.com.au

Initiate change within Intercountry Adoption

TO: Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd and Attorney General Robert McClelland

- Information

The Federal Government has to place as a priority tr

- THE PETITION

We the undersigned request that the Federal Govern

Please fill in your name and e-mail address and leave some comments if you so wish.

- Name * First Last
- Email *
- Comments

- **Important Notice**

All information you provide on this petition signing form will be used for the support of Intercountry Adoption within Australia

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ORPHAN ANGELS

Advocate Changes in Adoption

“ Adoption will only ever be a partial solution for the homeless and abandoned children of the world - its no panacea. I wish I had the answer to the social & economic injustices that leads to so many birth parents simply not being able to raise their own children”

....Debborra-Lee Furness

...”these children overseas will face a better future in a loving family in Australia than living on the street or in an orphanage in their country of origin..” The Committee on Family & Human Services Report on Overseas Adoption in Australia - November 2005

Currently lobbying for inquiry into local adoption, foster and child protection

Orphan Angels is currently lobbying to ensure the new Committee on Family & Services do follow through with the above inquiry as strongly recommended in November 2005 report.

Recent Youth Homeless Report (refer <http://www.abc.net.au/tv/oasis/report/report.htm>) & current closed door NSW Special Commission of Inquiry into Child Protection -

clearly show a national crisis in local children & the State Departments who have responsibility for supporting them.

Ongoing Lobbying- Intercountry Adoption



[Petition Available to sign -link here](#)

The Australian Intercountry Adoption system is in need of a drastic overhaul. There are millions of abandoned children who need a family and Australia has the 2nd lowest adoption rate in the developed world.

Deborra - Lee Furness has personally been lobbying for this current system to be overhauled URGENTLY for a long time now. She will continue this lobbying through Orphan Angels as an ongoing commitment.

At Orphan Angels we want to THANK the Rudd Government & particularly

our Attorney General for their response thus far.

Attorney Generals Department - Link Below:

http://www.ag.gov.au/www/agd/agd.nsf/Page/FamiliesIntercountry_adoption

another adoption community petition available to sign :

www.adoptionaustralia.org

Topics still needing more support /to be addressed in Intercountry Adoption

NGO's, National body covering all adoption areas (not state involvement),adoption for singles, older child adoption, special needs adoption, helping countries ratify the Hague Convention, looking at blockages in current countries - eg. China, Korea, Ethiopia ...why other countries timelines are far better than ours ?....

Update - Vietnam & Cambodia

The AGD have recently visited both Cambodia & Vietnam - We would like to see the Federal Government proactively assist these countries to ratify the Hague Convention or improve/set up required due diligence so Intercountry Adoption can proceed with these countries as soon as possible.

We believe Australia need to assist these countries on humanitarian grounds....**Every day we let the process stagnate another child is without the warmth & care of a loving family !**

National Adoption Awareness Week to be launched for May 2009 - coming soon

media campaign, events, community information packs- coming soon...to help create a pro adoptive culture & ensure families made through adoption is "mainstream" in Australia...

"We are all family ...all our children are OUR children and OUR future."

International Day - All Australia adoptive families welcome !!

a day to celebrate Intercountry Adoption. July 2008 ...organised by

IAFQ - www.iafq.org.au in QLD.



other issues worth
considering/discussing

enquiries@orphanangels.com.au

Help Orphans & Orphanages

Where we cannot assist abandoned children to find their way into a loving family we seek to assist orphanages & the children residing there.

above photograph courtesy of Sunday Telegraph

raising money for medical operations in China

eg. special needs kids not being adopted but needing cleft lip & palate operations - \$500 to fix. organised through FCC - Families with Children from China

educational visits to Australia for older orphans

Planning to provide educational visits (2 week english program) and homestays in Qld for older children (China) who often dont get adopted & in the case of China often end up employees of the orphanages.

rafiki society foundation

“a non profit orgn dedicated to generating funds to provide the children of Africa with the basic necessities of life such as food, water and shelter as well as provide direct access to medical care”. www.rafikisociety.com

world wide orphans

“to transform the lives of orphaned children by taking them out of anonymity and helping them to become healthy independent productive members of their communities and the world”.

www.wwo.org

hugging grannies

“providing the foundation for healthy development through touch & hugs in early stages of babies lives in the orphanages- financing grandmothers to spend time hugging babies and small children - organised through www.halfthesky.orgfund

raising funds for unwedded mothers homes

working to help single mothers in Korea who want to keep their babies but have no financial support to do so . Monies sent either direct to orphanages (esws www.eastern.or.kr , sws www.sws.or.kr korea) or for Australian tax deductibility can be directed through www.asiac.org.au - specifying where monies are to be directed. ie “esthers home” for unwedded mothers. (www.esther.or.kr)

volunteer to work at an orphanage

Hope for Orphans - Volunteer Abroad
Opportunities http://www.ifrevolunteers.org_hope_for_orphans.php

The Cambodian Children’s Fund

How to contribute to the CCF and Job /Volunteer Opportunities
www.cambodianchildrensfund.org

Save the Children

will get involved in disaster assistance and advocacy where they believe it can make a difference in contributing to the rights of children at risk - www.savethechildren.org.au

World Vision

become a world visions child sponsor & help kids in need -www.worldvision.com.au

Ideas for a primary school ?

Sponsor a “village in need”

and learn first hand about geography, horticulture, the environment, & economics. Help a village plant trees, and carry out revegetation projects and introduce drought resistant crops ?. Help revive barren land, build a well to access clean water or/& assist with improving education & health levels in your sponsored village. Watch over your child's primary years (6 - 7 yrs) and see how your village evolves and the lives of the children improve drastically.

to be organised with Orphan Angels through Rafiki Society Foundation.

to learn more ways you can assist a “child in need”
enquiries@orphanangels.com.au



friends of ORPHAN ANGELS

Hugh Jackman

Jane Oronson

Special Thanks to

Victoria Buchan

Ryan Ludlow

all the adopted children happy to be photographed
for our causes..



all Australian Adoption support groups & families..

News/Media

**Deborra-Lee Furness Invited by Attorney
General to attend First meeting of the National
Peak Overseas Adoption Support Group - 21
May 2008**

**NATIONAL ADOPTION
AWARENESS WEEK - MAY
2009**

media /press releases/kits coming soon !

article Sunday 27 April 2008 - courtesy Sunday Telegraph

past articles/media

currently being updated

dvds documentaries - we recommend watching

The Oasis -documentary www.theoasismovie.com.au

Tough kids from tough backgrounds living dangerous lives – these are the young people of Oasis, a grimy brick youth refuge in inner-city Sydney. No story is too horrific, no circumstance too dire, no kid too damaged for its tireless director, Captain Paul Moulds. Father figure, counsellor, saviour, and an orphan himself, Paul is nothing short of a legend amongst those who stumble in at breaking point, with nowhere left to go. Only Paul is there through all the chaos, from the birth of new babies to the funerals of those who self-destruct prematurely. This raw observational documentary filmed over two and a half

years, charts the fraught lives of Paul's extended family and captures his daily battle to save these lost children of the so-called 'Lucky Country'

Nobody's Children (1989)- documentary

A documentary insight into the growing youth underclass in Australia - with a major focus on homeless children.

make it real - documentary

A story of determination and hope. Like Harry Potter, Kevin is an orphan. But unlike Harry, he is real and has lived alone since the age of ten in Kisumu, Kenya. Now seventeen, he knows his chances of survival are slim as where he lives forty percent of the girls his age are HIV positive. Determined to make a difference, Kevin makes an incredible journey, not only encountering other orphans like himself, elders and the Mayor of his town, venturing across the land to the halls of power in the capital, challenging top industrialists, religious leaders, and even the Vice President. This is the story of a young man's courage, inspiring other like him to bring about change, set against the background of the AIDS epidemic and the turmoils of Africa.

my Khmer heart - documentary

It is estimated that over half a million children were orphaned during the genocide committed by the Khmer Rouge regime in Cambodia in the 1970s. Their parents were brutally executed, tortured or starved to death by Pol Pot's army. The country's legacy of poverty and political instability has left thousands of orphans in Cambodia today.

child soldiers - documentary

A telling global exposé of children who have become soldiers, who have been through the trauma of child soldiering, or who are presently active in fighting. Through a series of intimate portraits, filmed in Uganda, Sudan, Burma, Colombia and Sierra Leone, this documentary examines the complex issue of recruitment, the hazardous and often brutal life of child soldiers, and for those that survive the fighting – the daunting post-conflict challenges that lay before them.

Born into brothels - documentary

Amidst the apparent growing prosperity of India, there is a dark underbelly of poverty of another side of the nation that is little known. This film is a chronicle of filmmakers Zana Briski and Ross Kauffman's efforts to show that world of Calcutta's red light district. To do that, they inspired a special group of children of the prostitutes of the area to photograph the most reluctant subjects of it. As the kids excel in their new found art, the filmmakers struggle to help them have a chance for a better life away from the miserable poverty that

threatens to crush their dreams

Lost boys of Sudan- documentary

Lost Boys of Sudan is an Emmy-nominated feature-length documentary that follows two Sudanese refugees on an extraordinary journey from Africa to America. Orphaned as young boys in one of Africa's cruelest civil wars, Peter Dut and Santino Chuor survived lion attacks and militia gunfire to reach a refugee camp in Kenya along with thousands of other children. From there, remarkably, they were chosen to come to America. Safe at last from physical danger and hunger, a world away from home, they find themselves confronted with the abundance and alienation of contemporary American suburbia.

(source - Documentary Australia Foundation) www.documentaryaustralia.com.au

Growing up - going home - documentary - refer www.filmaust.com.au & www.irispictures.com.au - 3 Ethiopian sibling adoptees returning to Ethiopia after 10 years of living in Australia.

From Korea with love- documentary - refer www.filmaust.com.au & www.irispictures.com.au - Documentary traces journey of 2 Australians over homestudy and social workers visits as they seek to adopt internationally. It ends with an emotional trip to Korea to bring home their son.

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Big day for adoption campaign

By ELLEN CONNOLLY

THE campaign to overhaul Australia's anti-adoption system is gaining further momentum with the announcement of a National Adoption Awareness Week.

Actor Deborra-lee Furness, who is spearheading the fight, said the week will be celebrated annually from next year, beginning each Mother's Day.

Attorney General Robert McClelland has pledged support to the initiative, which is aimed at celebrating the lives of children, and also highlighting the inadequacies of the current system.

Furness, who has two adopted children with husband Hugh Jackman, said white balloons would be used to mark the event.

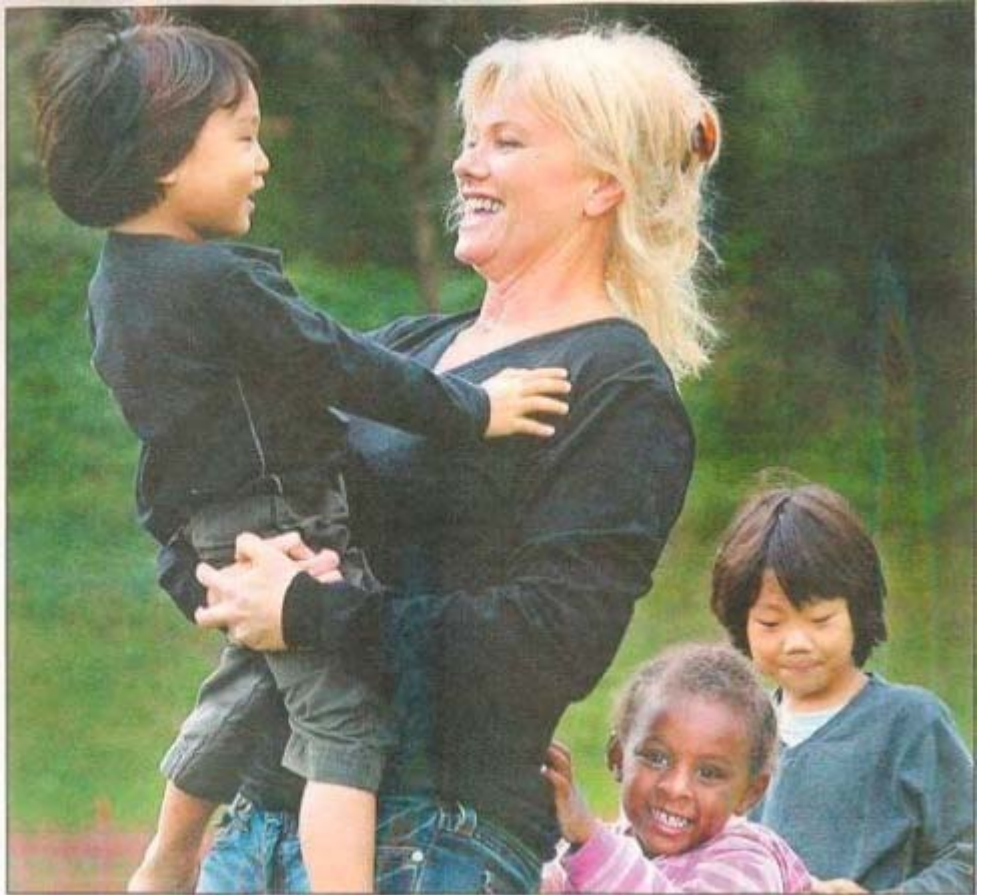
"It's a time for politicians to see we're serious about this — that we want changes," the actor said.

Furness said that her priority was to reduce the six-year waiting list for inter-country adoption. Asked what was a fair and reasonable time for couples to have to wait, Furness said: "Gestation, nine months".

Last week's announcement is a further step in the crusade by Furness and *The Sunday Telegraph* to reform Australia's uncooperative adoption procedures.

The Federal Government recently established Australia's first peak overseas adoption body.

"It will provide an important, national voice on the complex issues involved," Mr McClelland said.



High hopes: Deborra-lee Furness with some adopted kids at the launch of the National Adoption Awareness Week

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ORPHAN ANGELS

some useful links - adoption

State Authorities - Adoption - All types.

NSW

www.community.nsw.gov.au/DOCS/STANDARD/PC_101070.html

Victoria

www.office-for-children.vic.gov.au/adoption-permanent-care/

Queensland

www.childsafety.qld.gov.au/adoption/index.html

SA

<http://www.familiesandcommunities.sa.gov.au/default.aspx?Tabid=1634>

WA

www.community.wa.gov.au/DCP/Resources/Adoption/

Tasmania

www.dhhs.tas.gov.au/adoption/

ACT

www.dhcs.act.gov.au/ocyfs/services/adoptions

NT

www.nt.gov.au/health/comm_svs/facs/adoption.shtml

AICAN

Info on international adoption Australia

<http://www.aican.org/index.php>

IAFQ - INTERNATIONAL ADOPTIVE FAMILIES OF QLD

Support group for Queensland families involved in overseas adoption

Web Site: <http://www.iafq.org.au>

ASIAC (NSW) Inc

Support group to adoptive families before, during and after adoption.

Web Site: <http://www.asiac.org.au>

Discussion groups

Adopt Bolivia

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/bolfam/>

Adopt Korea

Web Site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adopt_korea/

Adopt Korea (US newsgroup)

Web Site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adopt_korea/

Colombian Connections

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ColombianConnections/>

Post Adopt China

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/post-adopt-china/>

Raising China Children

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/RaisingChinaChildren/>

Thailand Adopt

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/thailandadopt/>

OzICA

All topics related to inter-country adoptions in Australia.

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/OzIca/>

ACT Families with Children from China (ACTFCC)

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ACTFCC/>

Adoptive Parents China (APC)

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/a-parents-china/>

Attachment & trauma in adoption (China)

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/attach-china/>

Australians Adopt China

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/australians-adopt-china/>

China Adopt

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/chinaadopt/>

FCC Australia

FCC-Australia is the website for members of Families With Children From China-Australia,

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/FCC-Australia/>

Single Adopt China

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/single-adopt-china/>

Australia Single Adopt

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/groups/aussie-singles-adopt>

Aussieopia

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Aussieopia/>

Ethiopian Adoption

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ethiopian-adoption/>

GOAL Discussion List

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/goal-discussion/>

GOAL Information List

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/goal-info/>

Adopt Philippines International

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adopt-philippines-international/>

Aus Adopt Philippines

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ausadoptphil/>

Australians adopting from South Africa

Web Site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Australian_SouthAfrican_adoption/

South African Adoption

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SouthAfricanAdoption/>

Sri Lanka Adoption

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SriLankaChildren/>

Adopting from Taiwan

Web Site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Adopting_From_Taiwan/

Taiwan Adoption

This is an egroup limited to families in the process of adopting from Taiwan.

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/taiwanadoption/>

Adopt Africa

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adoptafrica/>

Adoptees

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adoptees/>

Adoption Search

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adoption-search/>

Family-Ties Adoption Search

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/familytiesadoptionsearch/>

Inter-Country Adoptee Support Network (ICASN)

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/icasn/>

Searching for Siblings

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/searchingforsiblings/>

World Wide Registry

Web Site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/world_wide_registry/

Like Twins

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/like-twins/>

Older Child

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/older-child/>

Post Adoption Issues

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Postadoptionissues/>

Gay Adoption

Web Site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adopting_gay/

Christian Adoption

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/ChristianAdoption/>

Growing Up Heathen

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/GrowingUpHeathen/>

Jewish Adoption

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/JewishAdoption/>

Pagan Adoption

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/PaganAdoption/>

Adopt 3-5 Year Olds

For those adopting children between the ages of 3 and 5 years.

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adopt3-5years/>

Adoption Help

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AdoptionHelp/>

Adoption Parenting

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adoptionparenting/>

Adoption Western Australia

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/adoptionwesternaustralia/>

Adoptive Families of ACT

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/afaact/>

AFCadopt

Moderated by: Australian Families for Children Inc

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AFCadopt/>

Attach Adopt

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/AdoptAttach/>

Australian Amigas

Web Site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/Australian_Amigas/

Holt International Children's Services

Web Site: <http://www.holtintl.org/forums/>

International Adopt Talk

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/International-Adopt-Talk/>

Special Needs Adoption Australia

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/SNadoptionAUST/>

The Adoption Connection

Web Site: <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/TheAdoptionConnection/>

The Adoption Option

Web Site: http://groups.yahoo.com/group/the_adoption_option/