

## **Post Adoption Information Sheet No 24**

### **Intercountry Post Adoption Services**

#### **What are The Benevolent Society's post adoption services?**

The Benevolent Society is a non-government organisation. It began providing post adoption services in NSW in 1991 through the Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC). PARC is a NSW state-wide service originally intended to assist with the implementation of the NSW Adoption Information Act (1990) which allowed adopted people and parents to find each other and make contact. In February 2010, The Benevolent Society launched Post Adoption Support Queensland (PASQ) funded by the Queensland government due to the enactment of the Adoption Act (2009) which made it easier for parents and adopted people to find each other in the state.

Our post adoption services offer counselling to anyone affected by adoption, assist in the search process for QLD and NSW adoptions, act as intermediaries, assist local mutual and peer support networks and educate the community as well as helping professionals on adoption issues. In recent years we have become more involved with people who were adopted from overseas and with parents who need support in their parenting.

#### **What does The Benevolent Society provide?**

##### **1. Counselling**

Qualified social workers, counsellors and psychologists, experienced in this specialised field, are available to talk through issues of loss, identity, family relationships, parenting and its challenges and the various impacts of being a transracial adoptive family.

Counselling support is provided either in person if you're situated close to our offices in Queensland and New South Wales, otherwise we provide counselling via telephone or Skype.

##### **2. Therapeutic parenting workshops**

The Benevolent Society runs Therapeutic Parenting Workshops specifically for adoptive parents in recognition that they are in the best position to support their children's healing journey. The workshops focus on the impacts of adoption from a trauma and attachment lens and provides space to connect and learn from other adoptive parents.

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### **3. Searching Support**

Finding information on birth family is particularly difficult for people adopted from overseas. These opportunities are however expanding year by year as countries who have historically placed children for adoption outside of their country of origin are collating more and more information. We can talk to you about searching options and also signpost you to other services who may be able to assist.

### **4. Library (including Postal Library)**

We have a library which includes a range of books on topics of parenting, attachment, cultural/ racial identity, racism and the more practical aspects of intercountry adoption.

### **5. The Colour Of Difference and The Colour of Time**

The Post Adoption Resource Centre have worked collaboratively with International Social Service Australia and Intercountry Adoptee Voices to produce these books. They provide a voice to the experiences of over 27 Australian people who have been adopted from overseas, and details ideas on how to best make intercountry adoption work. The sequel, The Colour of Time provides a look at the journeys of 13 original contributors, 15 years on to look at how the adoption experience is navigated over time.

### **6. Email Support**

For those who don't wish to access our service in person, or who prefer to seek support through email, we can provide assistance, reading and resources via email communication.

### **7. Feedback**

We're always happy to receive feedback on our existing services or ideas for new service development.

Please phone us if you wish to talk further about any issues raised in this information sheet.

**Post Adoption Resource Centre (PARC)**

**Location:** Locked Bag 6002,  
Hurstville BC NSW 1481

**Phone:** 02 9504 6788

**Email:** [PARC@benevolent.org.au](mailto:PARC@benevolent.org.au)

**Website:** [www.benevolent.org.au](http://www.benevolent.org.au)

**Post Adoption Support Queensland (PASQ)**

**Location:** Ground Floor, 189 Coronation Dr,  
Milton QLD 4064

**Phone:** 07 3170 4600

**Email:** [PASQ@benevolent.org.au](mailto:PASQ@benevolent.org.au)

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