

Health and Welfare shows this data and has been reproduced below.

We hope that this response is of value to the readers of *Children Australia*.

Yours sincerely
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Table 4 Local adoptions, by type of consent, 2004-05

Type of consent given	Number	Per cent
Mother only	40	62
Father only	1	2
Mother and father	23	35
Dispensations	1	2
Unknown	0	-
TOTAL	65	100

NOTES:

1. A dispensation is usually provided by the relevant court in each state/territory when the birth parent(s) are unable to give consent themselves.
2. There were a total of 12 dispensations for father's consent in Western Australia and Queensland. These adoptions are included in the 'Mother only' category and not included in the 'Dispensations' category.
3. In New South Wales consent is required of both parents, therefore in 15 cases where consent was provided by only one parent (14 mothers and 1 father) the court made dispensation for the other parent. These cases are not recorded under dispensations.

STATES & TERRITORIES UPDATE

The following state and territory updates have been provided by National Editorial Board members.

ACT

An 'exposure draft' of the Children and Young People Bill 2007 has just been released for community consultation. According to the Department, 'The Bill incorporates significant policy changes across the Child and Young People Act 1999, particularly in the areas of care and protection, youth justice, child care services and employment'.

Howard Bath

NSW

The Department of Community Services has issued a paper – 'Statutory child protection in NSW: Issues and options for reform'. The last date for comments is 30 March 2007.

The paper, which is highly controversial, can be downloaded from the DoCS website <www.community@nsw.gov.au>.

Frank Ainsworth

Children Australia is a refereed journal – all papers submitted are peer reviewed to assess their suitability for publication. However, at the discretion of the editor, papers which have not been reviewed are published from time to time. In order to clarify which articles have been reviewed and which have not, we now include a symbol at the end of each article as follows: ■ = peer reviewed article □ = non-reviewed article