

## **Funding and Service Agreement<sup>1</sup>**

### **Inter-country Adoption Service**

#### **I Service Definition**

##### **Introduction**

Inter-country adoption service aims to arrange overseas adoptive homes for children who are in need of permanent and stable adoption placement but no suitable local homes are available for them. Majority of these children are wards of Director of Social Welfare (DSW wards) with special needs due to mental or physical disability, developmental and health concerns, older age or unfavourable family background, and the others are children to be adopted by their relatives living overseas. At present, the Adoption Unit of the Social Welfare Department (SWD), in co-operation with designated non-governmental organisations, arranges adoption for DSW wards with special needs through their adoption network in overseas countries. The inter-country adoption service also provides assistance in completion of local adoption cases which require services from places outside Hong Kong.

##### **Purposes and Objectives**

The primary objectives of inter-country adoption are:

- (a) to identify and assess suitable overseas adoptive homes for children with special needs for whom no suitable local adoption placement is available;
- (b) to arrange adoption placements in overseas countries for these children so that they can grow up in a permanent and stable family; and
- (c) to prepare children for adoption placement so as to facilitate their integration into their adoptive families.

##### **Nature of the Service**

The primary function of inter-country adoption is to arrange overseas adoptive homes for children, including

- to assess the children's needs and conditions;
- to recruit and assess overseas adoptive homes;
- to arrange placement of these children into approved overseas adoptive homes;

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<sup>1</sup> This Funding and Service Agreement is a sample document for reference only.

- to prepare the children for overseas adoption placement;
- to monitor post-placement progress until the adoption is finalized in overseas countries; and
- to assist adopted persons or their birth families in tracing background information or re-establishing contacts with each other.

During the process, service operator is required to work closely with SWD and maintain close liaison with overseas government bodies and/or licensed/recognized adoption agencies.

Other services to be provided include:

- assistance in local adoption service:
  - (i) to trace parents/guardians living outside Hong Kong and to obtain their consent for the adoption arrangement of their children; and
  - (ii) to obtain approval from the authorities or designated organisations in the countries of origin of the prospective adoptive families applying for adoption of children in Hong Kong.

### **Target Groups**

- (a) DSW wards with special needs due to their mental or physical disability, developmental and health concerns, older age or unfavourable family background.
- (b) Prospective overseas adopters.
- (c) Children in Hong Kong whose relatives overseas intend to adopt them, and children requiring consent for adoption from their parents/guardians living outside Hong Kong.
- (d) Adopted persons or their birth families asking for tracing service.
- (e) Prospective adoptive parents requiring assistance in obtaining approvals from their countries of origin.

## II Performance Standards

The service operator shall meet the following performance standards:

### Outputs

<u>Output Standard</u>	<u>Output Indicators</u>	<u>Agreed Level</u>
1	No. of home studies completed <sup>Note 1</sup> in a year	20
2	No. of DSW wards placed overseas <sup>Note 2</sup> in a year	15
3	No. of children placed for overseas adoption by relatives <sup>Note 3</sup> in a year	2
4	No. of local adoption cases requiring assistance in seeking consent from parents staying outside Hong Kong or seeking overseas home approval completed <sup>Note 4</sup> in a year	18
5	No. of cases requiring assistance in tracing background information or re-establishing contacts completed in a year	10

### Essential service requirements

- Registered social worker.
- An established overseas network of government bodies and licensed/recognized adoption agencies which are ready to:
  - (i) recruit and assess suitable adoptive homes for DSW wards with special needs.
  - (ii) take up or arrange interim guardianship of the DSW ward placed by the service operator;
  - (iii) monitor the post-placement progress of the DSW ward and make alternative placement arrangements in consultation with the service operator should the placement fail; and
  - (iv) assist in local adoption cases in Hong Kong which require their services.
- Service operation to comply with the assessment and procedural guidelines.

**Quality**

Service operators will meet the requirements of the 16 Service Quality Standards (SQSs).

**III Obligations of SWD to Service Operator**

The Social Welfare Department will undertake the duties set out in the general obligations of Social Welfare Department to service operators.

In addition, the SWD will meet the following service-specific standards of performance. The actual performance of the Department in relation to these obligations is expected to affect the ability of the service operator to meet its required standards of performance.

- to make referral of DSW wards to the service operator for overseas adoption arrangement;
- to process applications for approval of matching proposals, and to handle court proceedings in accordance with the assessment and procedural guidelines.

**IV Basis of Subvention**

The basis of subvention is set out in the offer and notification letters issued by the SWD to the agency.

The service unit is required to comply with the rules on the use of the social welfare subventions in accordance with the latest Lump Sum Grant Manual and circular letters in force issued by the SWD on subvention policies and procedures.

Notes

- (1) “No. of home studies completed” refers to the number of applications for adoption of which the outcome is decided, i.e. accepted, rejected or withdrawn.
- (2) “No. of DSW wards placed” refers to the number of DSW wards who have departed Hong Kong for adoption.
- (3) “No. of children placed for overseas adoption by relatives” refers to the number of children who have departed Hong Kong for adoption by their relatives or for whom the adoption service required is completed.
- (4) “No. of local adoption cases requiring assistance in seeking consent from parents staying outside Hong Kong or seeking overseas home approval completed” refers to the number of parental consent cases of which the service required is completed and the number of home approval cases of which the outcome is decided, i.e. approved, rejected or withdrawn.