

# Fact sheet

## Adoption Fees and Costs<sup>1</sup>

September 2024

### Costs for Intercountry Adoption

Payments of fees for intercountry adoptions are made in accordance with section 200 of the Adoption Act 2000<sup>2</sup>. Minimum fees set out below apply from 1 February 2024. If your application requires updating, there will be additional fees for these services.

Table 1: Fee structure for Intercountry Adoption

Type of fee	Stage	First application	Second and subsequent applications
Information and training	Expression of Interest \$160 Training seminar \$500	\$660	nil
Assessment	Application and assessment	\$4,388	\$2,163
Child matching and post placement	Placement	\$4,944	\$4,944

- 1. Information and training**  
This covers initial information sessions and training required for prospective adoptive parents.
- 2. Assessment**  
This includes the comprehensive evaluation of the prospective adoptive parents to determine their suitability.
- 3. Child matching and post placement**  
This cost covers the matching process with a child and the necessary support and supervision after placement.

<sup>1</sup> Fees are published in the New South Wales Government Gazette.  
<sup>2</sup> Section 200 of the Adoption Act 2000 outlines the legal framework for the payment of fees related to intercountry adoptions, including the processes for determining and updating these fees.

## Additional Costs for Intercountry Adoption

Applicants are responsible for covering any additional fees imposed by Australian government departments, consulates, and businesses related to immigration visas, translation, notarisation, legalisation, authentication of documents, and courier services.

They are also responsible for any charges from overseas authorities for processing their applications, matching with a child, legal expenses in the overseas country, and any reports requested by these authorities after the adoption is finalised.

Additionally, applicants must cover the costs of travel, accommodation, and living expenses associated with travelling to the overseas country for placement with their child.

Please note: Department of Communities and Justice (DCJ) has a hardship policy that applies to intercountry adoption services. For more information, including how to apply for financial assistance, please visit our [Intercountry Adoption Hardship Policy Factsheet](#).

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## Costs for Local Adoption

Table 2: Fee structure for Local Adoption

Type of fee	Stage	Cost
Information and training	Training seminar	\$150
Assessment	Application and assessment	\$1,717
Child matching and post placement	Placement	\$700
Legal fees	Finalisation	\$834

### 1. Information and training

This covers initial information sessions and training required for prospective adoptive parents.

### 2. Assessment

This includes the comprehensive evaluation of the prospective adoptive parents to determine their suitability.

### 3. Child matching and post placement

This cost covers the matching process with a child and the necessary support and supervision after placement.

### 4. Legal fees

Legal fees cover the costs associated with the legal processes involved in local adoption. These fees may include court filing fees, legal representation, and finalisation costs. Any legal fees will be on a case-by-case basis and discussed with you prior.

## Costs for Dual Authorisation

DCJ has a high need for permanent, stable homes for children in the Out-of-Home Care (OOHC) or foster care sector. Becoming a permanent carer is a pathway to permanency by guardianship or adoption for children.

There are no fees for families interested in becoming “dually authorised” both as a permanent carer and local adoptive applicant. DCJ will cover costs associated with being trained, assessed, and authorised as both a permanent foster carer and local adoptive parent.

In the event you are matched with a baby placed for voluntary adoption through the local adoption process, the child matching, post placement, and legal fees in the table above are applicable. There is no placement fee if a child in OOHC is matched with your family.

## Special Placements Program

There are no fees for families interested in adopting a child through the Special Placements Program. Some children may have "high care needs" due to medical, developmental, or emotional challenges. These can include disabilities, chronic health conditions, or trauma. Adoptive parents of children with high care needs may qualify to receive financial assistance to meet the costs of special aids or general support, to assist the child to meet developmental goals.

## Additional Costs for Local Adoption

In addition to the above costs, applicants are advised to plan financially to ensure that one parent can be home as a full-time carer for at least 6 months following the placement of a child. This period is critical for the child to adjust and form secure attachments in their new family environment.

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## Payment of Fees

Payments for application and training are due after the completion of the training seminar and when you submit your Program Nomination Forms.

### How to Pay Using B-Pay

You can make your payments conveniently using B-Pay. Please follow these steps:

1. **Biller Code:** 275768
2. **Reference Number:** Use your unique reference number shown on your specific invoice
3. **Amount:** Payment of amount shown on your specific invoice

Make sure to keep a copy of your payment confirmation for your records. If you have any issues with payment, please contact our office for assistance.

Contact us
For more information, please contact Open Adoption and Permanency Services: <b>T:</b> 02 9716 3003 <b>E:</b> <a href="mailto:adoption.permanentcare@dcj.nsw.gov.au">adoption.permanentcare@dcj.nsw.gov.au</a> <b>W:</b> <a href="https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/adoption">https://dcj.nsw.gov.au/children-and-families/adoption</a>