



Triple Bottom Line (TBL) Assessment Summary

19/604 Adoption Amendment Bill 2020 – Agreement to Introduce

Summary of impacts:

- The Bill introduces amendments to the *Adoption Act 1993* to ensure the best interests of the child or young person are the paramount consideration when dispensing with parental consent in the adoption process.
- The amendments support the ACT Government's strategic priority of social inclusion – support when it matters.
- Introduction of this legislation will have no economic or environmental impacts.

Level of impact	Positive	Negative	Neutral
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Social		
Level of impact	Impact	Summary
Neutral	Gender Equality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no gender implications associated with this Cabinet Submission.
Positive	Access to social inclusion/ participation and community activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The amendments outlined in the Bill support a continuum of care that includes appropriate permanency options, which is a key element of <i>A Step Up for Our Kids – One Step Can Make a Lifetime of Difference (Out of Home Care Strategy 2015-2020)</i>. • These amendments support greater social inclusion and participation of adopted people. The Bill seeks to reduce the adversarial nature of adoption proceedings, by supporting a holistic consideration of the rights of the child or young person, making it more likely that positive relationships can be maintained post-adoption. • The amendments further support social inclusion and community participation by seeking to rectify the misalignment between 35(1)(b) of the <i>Adoption Act 1993</i> and a contemporary understanding of disability and mental health.
Positive	Human rights	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Bill engages human rights in the context of domestic adoption, including protection of the family and children (section 11 of the <i>Human Rights Act 2004</i>). The proposed amendments are also guided by the objectives of the <i>Adoption Act 1993</i>, supporting the rights of children and young people.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The rights of parents are reasonably limited to ensure the best interests of a child or young person are the paramount consideration.
Positive	Impacts on different age groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amendments will assist decision-makers to determine the 'best interests' of a child or young person. This assessment will reflect the maturity and developmental stage of the child or young person, including a consideration of how they could be supported to participate in decisions about their life. The amendments support adult adoptees by removing jurisdictional barriers to adults seeking to be adopted in the ACT.
Positive	Disability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Bill addresses an incompatibility between provision 35(1)(b) and a contemporary understanding of disability and mental health, by shifting the focus to the best interests of the child or young person.

Economic	Nil
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Environmental	Nil
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