

# Adoption of Children Act 1968, Tasmania

1968 – 1988

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## Details

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The *Adoption of Children Act 1968* was passed in response to the Commonwealth government's push for model legislation to harmonise adoption law in Australia.

The 1968 Act made it mandatory for an assessment of potential adoptive parents to be undertaken. It also made private adoptions illegal, making it unlawful for private individuals or unauthorised organisations to organise adoptions. It became mandatory for the government to approve welfare agencies that organised adoptions. It formalised the transfer of responsibility for adoptions to the Department of Social Welfare and authorised adoption agencies. There was only ever one of these approved agencies in Tasmania, the Catholic Private Adoption Agency, run by the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau (which became Centacare in 1977).

With the implementation of the *Adoption of Children Act 1968* in Tasmania, practice changed significantly. Under the previous legislation, the assessment of adoptive applicants had not been required. After the passage of the 1968 Act, in most cases, where a general consent was signed, the Director of the Social Welfare Department became the guardian under section 35 of the *Child Welfare Act 1960*. This remained in place until the Adoption Order was finalised. In extremely rare cases, where the adoption was of a 'known child', this transfer of guardianship may not have occurred.

Section 11 of the 1968 legislation enacted the principle that the welfare and interests of the child must be the paramount consideration in approving adoptions.

## More info

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### Chronology

- Adoption of Children Act 1920, Tasmania (1920 - 1968)
  - **Adoption of Children Act 1968, Tasmania (1968 – 1988)**
    - Adoption of Children Act 1988, Tasmania (1988 - current)

### Related Entries

### Related Organisations

- [Catholic Family Welfare Bureau \(Tasmania\) \(1959 - 1977\)](#)

**Is amended by**

- [Age of Majority Act 1973, Tasmania \(1973 - current\)](#)

**Related Concepts**

- [Adoption in Tasmania \(c. 1920 - current\)](#)

Date: 1968 - 1988

## Resources

- Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies (AIATSIS), [To Remove and Protect](#), 2014
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