



The Honourable Margaret Keech MP  
Member for Albert



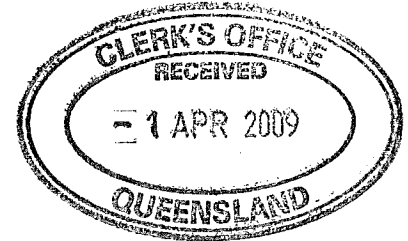
Queensland  
Government

Our Reference: PPC00070

Minister for Child Safety  
and Minister for Women

23 MAR 2009

Mr N Laurie  
The Clerk of the Parliament  
Legislative Assembly of Queensland  
Parliament House  
Corner Alice and George Streets  
BRISBANE QLD 4000



Dear Neil

Thank you for your letter dated 26 November 2008 regarding the Parliament of Queensland E-Petition Number 1059-08. I note the E-Petition sought the inclusion of section 39 of the *Adoption of Children Act 1964* in the current review of Queensland's adoption laws, on the grounds it prevents adoptees from accessing their family history and their family medical history.

Section 39 is actually concerned with declarations of the validity of foreign adoptions. Therefore, I assume the petitioners intended to refer to section 39AA. This section only applies to persons who were adopted prior to 1 June 1991, and provides that a birth parent of an adopted person, or an adopted person, may object to contact being made and may object to the disclosure of identifying information to a person or a specified class of persons.

I am pleased to advise on 14 July 2008, the Bligh Government announced the review of the laws concerning the release of information about adoptions which occurred prior to June 1991. The review included section 39AA of the *Adoption of Children Act 1964*, and a range of other related legislative provisions.

Access to information is a complex and sensitive issue and there are many considerations, especially around a person's right to privacy. There will be people who support the possibility of this information being made available, and others who do not. This is why I considered consultation about this issue to be imperative, and why the Government released the *Balancing Privacy and Access: Adoption Consultation Paper* to seek feedback from all adoption stakeholders about the best way to give all people the same access to information about their family history, while maintaining the right to privacy.


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The consultation period has now closed and a report about the feedback received in response to the consultation paper is available at [www.childsafety.qld.gov.au](http://www.childsafety.qld.gov.au).

The Adoption Bill was introduced into the Parliament on 10 February 2009. The Bill was informed by the consultation feedback.

I trust this information is of assistance to you.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Margaret Keech". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

**Margaret Keech MP**  
Minister for Child Safety  
and Minister for Women  
Member for Albert