

# Adoption in the Northern Territory

c. 1935 –

## Details

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Adoption is the legal transfer of guardianship of a child, relinquished by its natural parent(s), to another person. The first legislation to provide for legal adoption of children in the Northern Territory was the *Adoption of Children Ordinance 1935* (Commonwealth). In 2019, adoption is governed by the *Adoption Act 1994*.

## More info

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### Related Entries

#### Related Events

- [Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices, Commonwealth of Australia \(2011 - 2012\)](#)

#### Related Glossary Terms

- [Forced Adoption \(c. 1940 - c. 1970\)](#)

#### Related Legislation

- [Adoption of Children Ordinance 1935, Northern Territory \(1935 - 1951\)](#)
- [Adoption of Children Act 1994, Northern Territory \(1994 - current\)](#)

## Resources

- Senate Community Affairs References Committee, [Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices](#), 29 February 2012
- Quartly, Marian; Swain, Shurlee; Cuthbert, Denise; Drefus, Kay and Taft, Margaret, *The market in babies: stories of Australian adoption*, 2013

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