

**Adoption Bill 2021 –
Third Reading approved**

The Speaker: I call on Mr Ashford to move Third Reading.

Mr Ashford: Thank you very much, Mr Speaker and again can I thank the Hon. Member for Ramsey, Mr Hooper, for all his engagement over this Bill. It has been most welcome and I think we have a very good Bill going up to Legislative Council as a result.

The reform of adoption is long overdue, (**Two Members:** Hear, hear.) and if it does not bring it home to anyone either in this Hon. House or outside, I was actually aged seven when the current piece of adoption legislation on the books actually went through! He is not currently in the Chamber, but I dread to think how old Mr Hooper was, I was going to say, if any age at all! But we try not to go over that ground. So it is much needed and it is a piece of social legislation that I think will have a massive impact on people outside of this Hon. House.

I would also like to thank my long-enduring seconder, Mrs Corlett, and my even more long-enduring mover of amendments from the Department, Mrs Barber, who had a huge amount of amendments to deal with today, and her seconder, Mr Moorhouse.

I know on these occasions it is not normally done to thank individual officers, but I do want to put on *Hansard*, Mr Speaker, my thanks to Debbie Brayshaw, who is our retiring – and has actually now gone – Director of Children and Family Services. Debbie has been highly involved in this legislation. She has been passionate about it for a very long time and I think this legislation, when it comes through, will be a legacy to her time in that Department. (**Mr Robertshaw and another Member:** Hear, hear.)

With that, Mr Speaker, I think I have detained the House enough. I beg to move that the Bill be read for a third time.

Thank you, Mr Speaker.

The Speaker: Mrs Corlett.

Mrs Corlett: Thank you, Mr Speaker. I beg to second.

The Speaker: I put the question that the Adoption Bill 2021 be read for a third time. Those in favour, please say aye; against, no. The ayes have it. The ayes have it.