



(1)

30/1/2012.

REGARDING the enquiry into forced ADOPTION etc.  
I WAS a TRAINEE MIDWIFE at the  
ROYAL WOMENS' HOSPITAL MELBOURNE IN 1959.  
FOR A FEW WEEKS before that I WORKED as an  
SRN IN the Gynaecology ward there so feel  
I AM QUALIFIED TO SPEAK TO YOUR COMMITTEE at least  
for that DATE.

I CAN'T Help wondering who INSTIGATED this  
enquiry, AND for what purpose?

IT'S hard to IMAGINE dozens of 80 y.o WOMEN  
CLAMOURING for "JUSTICE" and possible "COMPENSATION"  
CONNECTED TO the DISASTERS of THEIR YOUTH, which  
one would have THOUGHT they would ~~have~~ much  
RATHER FORGET, if possible.

on the other hand, IT'S NOT so hard TO  
IMAGINE some YOUNG SOCIAL WORKER OR "WOMENS'  
advocate" wishing TO MAKE an NAME for themselves,  
THOUGHTLESSLY climbing on the backs of these  
UNFORTUNATE WOMEN and MALIGNING the hospital  
at the SAME TIME — A PROCESS which I believe  
TO be COUNTERPRODUCTIVE, MISCHIEVOUS, & INHUMANE.

I DOUBT THAT MODERN-DAY people,  
especially YOUNG ones, CAN HAVE any TRUE  
idea of just how DISASTEROUS an UNWANTED  
pregnancy WAS AT THAT TIME (40's & 50's)

EDUCATION finished, EMPLOYMENT UNLIKELY,  
SOCIAL OSTRACISM, MARRIAGE PROSPECTS RUINED, NO  
financial aid from SOCIAL SECURITY, and VERY  
LITTLE appreciation of what IT ACTUALLY TAKES  
TO REAR a child TO MATURITY

(2)

APART FROM TERMINATION OF PREGNANCY i.e. illegal ABORTION done by "BACK YARD" PRACTITIONERS - a DESPERATE MEASURE, BUT VERY WIDESPREAD AT THE TIME - THE PREGNANT GIRL ~~AND~~ and her PARENTS had only Two choices

- ① Keep the BABY
- ② ADOPTION

① Keeping the baby would have REQUIRED TOTAL COMMITMENT of the GIRL'S PARENTS. FOR VARIOUS REASONS, INCLUDING CONSIDERATION of the welfare of the baby, and of the YOUNG MOTHER, ADOPTION MAY HAVE BEEN SEEN TO BE THE ONLY POSSIBLE CHOICE AT THAT TIME BY BOTH THE GIRL CONCERNED & HER PARENTS.

② ADOPTION "FORCED"

I THINK IT ALMOST LUDICROUS (IF IT WASN'T SO DESTRUCTIVE), THE SUGGESTION THAT HOSPITAL WORKERS WOULD BE A PARTY TO "FORCED ADOPTION". THEY WOULD NOT HAVE NEEDED TO BE, SINCE THE ALREADY ~~THE~~ PREVAILING SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THAT TIME WERE FORCING THE GIRL AND HER PARENTS TO MAKE THIS UNHAPPY CHOICE

THE REASON THAT YOUNG UNMARRIED GIRLS (WHO WERE INTENDING TO HAVE THEIR CHILD ADOPTED) WERE NOT ENCOURAGED TO SEE OR CARE FOR THEIR BABIES IN HOSPITAL, WAS OUT OF KINDNESS. IT WAS CONSIDERED TO BE AN EXTRA TRAUMA FOR THEM, HAD THEY BONDED WITH THE BABY. TO HAVE IT TAKEN FROM THEM A FEW DAYS LATER.

ISN'T IT TIME NOW FOR SOME OF THAT KINDNESS, EVEN COMPASSION FOR THOSE, THEN, YOUNG GIRLS, RATHER THAN A RELENTLESS &

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heartless pursuit of percieved wrongs, based on  
MISINFORMATION, IGNORANCE, AND LACK OF  
UNDERSTANDING OF those times.

YOURS Very Sincerely  
(ALTHOUGH SOMEWHAT IRRITATED)

STUDY AGAIN.

A. L. M. ALLITT

PS.

I AM UNAWARE OF THE FULL DETAILS OF  
THE MATTERS TO BE DISCUSSED AT YOUR  
ENQUIRY, BUT AM QUITE PREPARED TO GIVE YOU  
MY OPINION ON ANY OTHER ~~MATTERS~~ RELATED ITEMS  
ON YOUR AGENDA.

I WAS THERE AND I KNOW WHAT IT WAS LIKE!

A.A.