

**INTRODUCTIONS TO SENATE INQUIRY
29TH April 2001**

**To Senate Committee of Community Affairs
Also to the people that help organize this venue and I would like to
thank the mothers and any children that are here today.
I would also like to thank the family and friends for their support over
the years and today.**

OVERVIEW

I had my child in 1962 at Crown Street Women's Hospital. I was 15 years old, the pregnancy was a result after an assault. I intended to keep my child, my parents and I did not expect the Doctors and other organizations to be lying and committing unlawful and illegal acts. In those years 1940-2000 everyone to my knowledge believed the professionals not even considering that they would commit any wrong doing. you would not have questioned things happening until around the year 2000. This is because Medicare started and Medicare started to pick up the illegal things being done with in the medical profession.

**INQUIRY 2000 NSW
SCARBA HOUSE**

I took my daughter to Scarba House on the 24th September straight from the Crown Street Hospital my daughter was only to be left there for a short period. This was only to be until my parents soled their house and purchased another. I was told by my mother many years later. It was my mother that was advised

by Scarba that Scarba had no room for my daughter and that they had a nice couple in the country that were well off and could adopt my daughter.

My parents were hood winked by the pressure of these two people that worked for Scarba at the time. Also my parents did not think that professional people back then would lie to them.

I had not signed the consent to adopt form. My parents were under a lot of stress that day they had not noticed me signing of anything or any signature being taken. This my parents told me years later when they thought about it In the year 1999 that we saw that the signature was not mine at all.

It was in 2005 that a handwriting expert told me it was a forgery.

Scarba did not let my parents or I know that my daughter did not go to any parents, in the country. I found out that my daughter was kept at Scarba for 13 months later. Documents I received then said that my daughter had gone to the Adopted parents at 13 months old I started to get my memory back that was at the help of my mother who has just passed away 12 months ago. This signature was signed by a Benevolent Society employee staff member. I do have the proof of this by the handwriting expert reports saying that it was the person that worked for Scarba that committed the forgery.

Years later after laws were changed I believed in 1991. These laws allowed the mothers to now have access to her records. I was still in Dissociated Amnesia; I didn't get memory back until 1995.

Scarba, allowed my daughter to go out to the so called people that were intending to adopt my daughter in 1963 at (13 Months old) Scarba knowing that the child was still mine but allowed her to go to the adopted parents that they

had in mind. I consider no adoption consent form was signed so my daughter was not their child to give. I should have been contacted and told that the adoption consent form had not been signed. I should have been asked If I would sign it or want my child back. As the child was still my daughter and no one else's.

Scarba had also changed the year on the consent to adopt to 1964 this also was picked up by the handwriting expert. (It should have read 1962) Scarba changed this to August 1964 then they realized it was not 1964 so they changed it back and crossed this out and then put 1962. This was also picked up by the handwriting expert I employed.

2008 a Private Lawyer and myself tried to come to an agreement re-my daughter with Benevolent Society.

I tried from 2008 for 18 months after that to negotiate with Benevolent Society. To see if we could come to some sort of agreement out of court. Benevolent advised my lawyer and me that as the lady was dead they owed me nothing which I felt was very cruel. The only thing they said they would do would be to send my daughter a letter.

The letter they sent to my daughter was they were prepared to pay all expenses of me seeing her in Canada however long down the track. They would pay for airline, hotel and clothing as over in Canada and I presume some money for traveling over there at the time for the couple of weeks that I would be there. It is cold in Canada even when it is summer and as being on a pension you don't have that sort of money to buy theses type of clothes you would need living expenses as well.

The 14 years of pain and also poverty I have had to live in. I have also passed copies of these letters onto the Senate Committee an a couple of pages out of the handwriting expert report as well.

Since Benevolent has sent my daughter a letter to Canada in September 2009 and since I received her answer in about October 2010. I have been on oxygen and been in ICU, and close to death just after receiving her answer.

I have had to go through all of this and a lot more because people decide to make choices for me back years ago. My parents would not have made such a big decision as they knew that this was my life and a thing I would have to live with.

I have not been able to work for 14 years which I loved my work, and I would have had my own house and also it is just not me going through this but my parents and about other people that this has effected as well.

Cassandra Cooke
Secretary of
Apology Alliance
White Stolen Generation