



## FORCED ADOPTIONS IN TASMANIA

The welfare of unmarried mothers and the adoption practises in Tasmania were **flawed** and **corrupt**. Mostly run by churches where church and state were not separate. The heads of these agencies were older MEN who played God and made rules without any idea of what a young woman goes through to give birth. Unmarried mothers had their human rights taken away from them by these people.

The process of **isolation**, **intimidation** and **humiliation** started at hospitals and unmarried mother's homes when staff put BFA [babies for adoption] on files without the patients consent or knowledge. Our gynaecologists' and doctors were better trained too because these women were used as guinea pigs also without consent written or otherwise humiliating them with their language and practices.

Young pregnant girls were use as unpaid slaves for church run homes with the churches making a lot of money for their misery. Their care was basic as was the food, they were called sluts and whores **isolated**, **intimidated** and again **humiliated**. The families of these girls were not encouraged to visit and definitely no boyfriends. Staff could handle girls with post natal depression and girls on drugs [which they knew nothing about] but put an angry boyfriend in the picture he was an unknown quantity and the staff refused access. A lot of the mothers later married the fathers of their

babies and even though welfare were given ALL information on the father none of it or very little was recorded. Their names were deleted and unknown put in its place another cheap and degrading trick they used on the mothers. Even rape victims were treated in this manner because the good people payed to protect us considered the girl 'ASKED" for it. At the 1997 Inquiry we were told there had been work done on the after effects of adoption and those from Centre Care knew they weren't good but it was the same old corrupt story.

At birth, sheets and pillows were used so mothers were not able to see their babies, some were not allowed to hold them nor were they allowed to name them. These rights that were taken away were BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS and the mothers by law were allowed these rights. The welfare and adoption agencies were only geared to take babies from their mothers. I have been involved in adoption for 25 years hearing 100's of stories and not once did I hear of any welfare staff offers to help a mother find a job or a place to live or intercede with her parents. Some of the homes had advertisements on TV promotion adoption looking for MARRIED couples for the babies of these UNFORTUNATE girls. Yes there were mothers who wanted to place their babies for adoption but these were usually older women many of them married with too many children which they were unable to feed along with rape victims. Over and over we hear from women who don't know each other from different parts of the state with the

same story. A welfare worker who worked for both sides in the contract [which legally is a conflict of interest] wanted a signature and would do whatever it took. At no time did the mothers wishes come it to account. You were black mailed with “if you take the baby home every male will think you are easy and we’ll see you again next year”. “If you take the baby home you won’t get the baby bonus.” If you take the baby home welfare will check every week and the baby will be in Foster care within 6 months”. Systematic emotional abuse is called torture. There were a lot of adoptive parents who really should never have been given babies.

Forced Adoption was the norm because the powers to be were megalomaniac. They wanted pats on the back and accolades. Today we have IVF and surrogates but back then adoption was how welfare filled the gaps. While the churches were preaching about how bad we had been their clergy were molesting kids and the church were turning a blind eye. Men ran the country and men wanted power even if they had to manipulate young women and sell babies. Hang on a minute they didn’t sell babies but they handed them over for a large donation to the church. There have been some mothers who have said their mothers signed forms. One baby left a hospital with people of the same name and there was no adoption, surly that would be kidnapping.

There was a stage where the only qualification a welfare worker needed was a driver’s licence.

WHAT IS THE DEFINATION OF A FORCED ADOPTION?

**A baby taken from its mother and placed for adoption against the mother's wishes.**

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