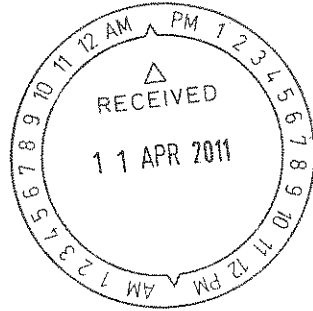


Margaret Collins,



5<sup>th</sup> April, 2011.

Dear Sir,

(...)

Re: *Forced Adoption.*

*I, Margaret May Collins am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident in Victoria. As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia, I have an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution and the Commonwealth Law of this country.*

*As an Australian citizen, the Commonwealth affords me protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threaten my right to life, liberty, and justice from those who would deny me these rights, within and without the borders of Australia.*

*I have two stories to share with you.*

*In 1971, I was a victim of the forced adoption practices. I gave birth to a little girl who was carried away from me at birth, without my seeing or holding her in my arms. I felt extreme pressure from those around to adopt her out. I signed the adoption papers in Brisbane, Queensland, and flew to Melbourne to be with friends soon after. 21 days after signing, I revoked my consent. I found that being no longer pregnant, and suffering the shame and pressure surrounding the pregnancy, that I was able to see my situation in a different light, especially my beautiful little baby girl. I got the courage to state I wanted to keep my baby which was my desire all along. However the Queensland Government practiced "instant adoption", my Solicitor explained to me. There was no court procedure or "cooling off" period.*

*I felt the extreme pain of forced separation then. It was very difficult being around others with babies. When I was in Queensland visiting, I was always looking around wondering if my child was near me. The grief never went away or ever will go away.*

*Fortunately, my daughter sort to meet me through Jigsaw when she was 18. She had been unsettled all her life re her adoption situation.*

*I want to say that it is wonderful to have a good relationship with the daughter who I feel was stolen from me, however, the childhood years can never be returned.*

*I also am adopted. I was never told that I was an adoptee. When I was faced with the same situation as my natural mother was in 1949, I was still not told by my adoptive parents that I myself was adopted.*

*I have since found my natural mother. I am endeavouring to cultivate a good relationship with her, however, she still feels the pain surrounding her circumstances. She has not yet enabled me to meet my two half sisters. She also has not told me my natural father's name. I have attempted to obtain his name through the adoption records, however it is not registered. I believe strongly that his name should have been registered, and that all children should have the right to meet and have information on both parents, including IVF, and donor children.*

*I pray that the forced, legally-instant, practices of adoption will cease in Australia and world wide. Every mother has the right to a relationship with her own child. Every child also has the right to know the details of their natural parents. May the Senate enquiry bring about this much needed reform.*

*Yours sincerely,*

*Margaret Collins.*