

COMMENTS BY JUDY TURNER, AUTHOR OF 'GRAND LOVE - Grandparents Raising Grandchildren':

- As a grandparent who is raising a granddaughter I wrote the book GRAND LOVE after spending ten years as an active member of Charlestown GAPS. In preparation for writing I had extensive interviews with grandparents who were raising their grandchildren, I spoke with a number of their grandchildren and also talked with the regional Kinship Care Worker. While some details, mostly relating to the procedures of DOCS and the courts, may have changed, the needs of grandparents and grandchildren still need serious attention.
- The Wish List on page 105, although some details may have changed, largely remains relevant.

I believe the book contains a considerable amount of information about the issues that the Senate Inquiry will examine and I hope it will be useful as a valuable resource. I will be happy to supply further copies of the book or the CD if that would be helpful.

FURTHER COMMENTS SINCE GRAND LOVE'S PUBLICATION IN JULY 2011:

- My granddaughter (Sophie in the book) is about to turn 17. I had few worries with her as she grew up, comments from other people and teachers at school have all been very favourable, and she appeared very well adjusted. However, like *every other grandchild I have encountered in GAPS*, she has struck trouble during her teens.

- I don't know of any grandchildren who have not been seriously affected by what happened to them in their early lives, and what they question about themselves and their birth parents as they become teenagers. They compare their lives with their friends' and find glaring shortcomings. This is an enormous challenge for them to come to grips with, and an enormous challenge for their grandparents to deal with as well - whether the grandchildren react with rebellion, withdrawal, depression, self-harm, rejection or drugs
- I believe crucial damage is done to these children in their early years (and even in the womb). There should be ongoing early intervention and psychological treatment from the time the children arrive till they become adults - a monitoring every year because different problems arise at different ages and different levels *but* they arrive nevertheless. If left unresolved their relationships will suffer in adult years.

*The Case Studies in the last third of GRAND LOVE
reveal the true position that grandparents face.*