

(...)

1st February, 2011

Community Affairs Committee,
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House,
CANBERRA
ACT 2600

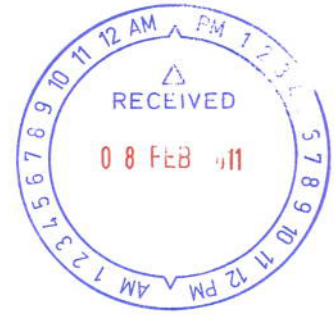
Dear Sirs,

CONTRIBUTION

RE - SENATE INQUIRY INTO COMMONWEALTH

TO FORMER FORCED ADOPTION & PRACTICES
DEPARTMENT OF THE SENATE

ATTENTION - COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE



I wish to put in my submission to this inquiry and my story starts in the year of 1972 when I became pregnant at the age of 22. At the time, the response by my boyfriend was not a good outcome as he admitted to me that he would not take responsibility for a child who was to be born in February of 1973.

My parents came from a good christian upbringing and their response was "what will the neighbours say" so they closed the door in my face and said that it would be best not to visit them well not till after the child was born. At the time I was renting with two ladies in a suburb of Sydney and working with the National Bank who in turn treated me with much respect and gave me a position in an office away from the public eye.

One month went into anothe and I kept myself busy with work and visiting a girlfriend close by. My parents never ever came to visit me nor did they want any contact, only at Christmas at my Sisters house.

Finally, I was due to give birth on the 19th February but my Son arrived on the 9th February just ten days early in (...) Sydney. It was a very traumatic birth and very distressing, the next morning after a twenty four hour delivery the staff put me in a ward with a young girl who was going to keep her child so that for me was double the pain of not seeing my child. The staff at (...) Hospital were far from caring and I was just called "she" all the time. All I needed was a little support and understanding from somebody so with much agonizing grief I screamed and cried all day long until a nurse came to me and said get your belongings we are taking you to a girls home and can only remember being put in an ambulance and taken to a girls home in Randwick where there were other girls who were adopting out their child or either waiting to have a child and that for me was a little better.

One week later I left the home and went back to work at the bank feeling not only exhausted physically but mentally drained. Time went by and I became depressed as I had just also received a phone call from the Child Welfare to say that my baby had problems and was diagnosed finally with Cerabal Palsy and I believe it was neglect from (...) Hospital. The adoption was deferred and there was to be a Court Case as to whom would be paying the high medical costs.

Being in a severe state of depression my only way out was to apply for a position in London office of the National Bank and thankfully my application was accepted after some time and I was then able to start a new life meeting new people.

I returned from London two years later and began working in Sydney again , so it was a

wonderful experience working in London and Oxfordshire and also travelling around Europe for a short while.

Getting married in 1979 was good for me and I felt I could move on in my life and maybe have another child ..which did happen in 1983 and then we had a Son in 1986. My husband was always supportive towards me in any way. Never once did I forget the Son that I adopted out in 1973 ...birthdays especially.

Thirty five years passed and on the 12th November, 2008 I received a letter from the Department of Youth and Community Services to say that my Son would like to me contact. This did happen after some time and the reunion has been a success.

On the 9th February, 2011 I will spend time with my Son ...the first birthday ever in thirty eight years.

I am now trying to deal with the death of my young Granddaughter ...so life can certainly throw challenges to you in some ways.

My thoughts go to other birth Mums who in those days were treated with no respect at all and looked down upon.

Yours faithfully,
(...)

(Mrs) Lyn Anderson
(...)