

30th June 2011

Inquiry into Commonwealth Contribution to
Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices.

Committee Secretary,
Naomi Bleeser,
Dear Naomi,

I'd like to add a supplement to my submission No 18.

I wanted to add to my submission that mothers in Queensland who had their babies stolen off them for adoption were given police records. I had a police record because I had an unplanned pregnancy. What a disgraceful way to treat young women and in particular young grieving mothers. We were seen as criminals.

Because there were forced adoptions in Australia a lot of unsuitable people and mentally ill people were able to adopt babies, and they adopted for the wrong reasons, sometimes bizarre reasons. My mother wanted boys, she didn't want girls, we weren't good enough, so she was able to adopt boys to fulfill a very unhealthy obsession.

These days we frown upon the misuse of abortion as a means of sex selection, and rightly so, but my mother (and no doubt many other couples), was decades ahead of the rest of the world in that she was able to exploit vulnerable impoverished women to adopt the sex of the child she preferred ie, boys. People in positions of power allowed her to do that unquestioned.

If I'd been born in India or China I probably would have been left on a hillside to die, or been choked with grass seeds.

Why wasn't I as a girl seen as not good enough, and why was I given a police record. Australia was no better than places like India and China where girls aren't worthy of the breath they breathe and where women are abused and exploited

I was just 3 years old when this lunacy of a system deprived me of a normal life. My fate was sealed before I was even out of nappies.

The Govts of the day both State Govts and the Commonwealth turned a blind eye to the suffering and exploitation that impacted on the lives of so many people. It was like a cancer that spread and spread unchecked. They had rules and regulations that they were supposed to adhere to but they didn't.

The birth families of the tens of thousands of people who were adopted need some form of formal acknowledgement of their suffering and abuse. We need a Formal Apology and recompense.

My 4 children that I had after the theft of my first son need some form of recognition and acknowledgement for their suffering as well, as they had to carry a depressed mother for years, when they were barely out of nappies themselves. They helped me no one else did. Did I need to be punished all of my life, and did my 5 children all need to be punished, NO. The people who abused us do. They need to be shamed like we were.

Sincerely Yours