

Monday, April 04, 2011

Today only 4 days since the closing date for submissions, again I have checked online and am very disappointed at the final number of submissions made: only 172!

From the responses from mothers, after I sent around an email encouraging all those to take this opportunity to tell their stories, I'm afraid that many believe it is merely (*another*) wasted effort of time and emotional stress to be bothered to put their stories on paper.

Many mothers who spend days and weeks, and many tears, writing down the pain and hurt from the past - and not ever past - if reunions have been unsuccessful, bringing it all up again just to have another politician trivialise their trauma, feel it is just not worth regurgitating their trauma.

It's a very sad, but completely understandable attitude, when you consider that in the past there were several hundred submissions for the N.S.W. state inquiry alone, and if you count those from the Tasmanian inquiry, that shows that mothers were keen to be heard, but as there has virtually been nothing done by the Governments - Federal or State - following recommendations by the committees (*or if there was, very little publicity to enable participation by mothers who needed help ... THEN!*)

Also many mothers and people affected by adoption placed submissions (over 500) to the Senate Select Committee on Mental Health in 2006 which recommended paying for mental health care!

I have not heard anything further on this either despite my submission being accepted.

That is the reason - I believe - that there is little interest and much apathy towards this latest response by the government, when following the Higgins report, the initial government response seemed to be dismissive and negative.

Also as many mothers are in their 60s, 70s and older, mothers are dying.

Many (cynically? believe that the Governments would wait until most of us have died until or IF there was ever any action taken on our claims.

I sincerely hope that despite the small number of submissions the Government will take our issues seriously and not disregard us this time - for many of us it is the absolutely last opportunity for our children to learn the truth.

Barbara Maison