

Department of the Senate,
P.O. Box 6100,
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600
Australia

25th April 2011

Dear Senators,

Before I married my wife, her mother advised I, that she had already had a child, which had been adopted.

At that time I was not aware of the circumstances associated with young women who had had their children adopted, and it did not influence my judgement in respect to marrying her.

I am making this submission because one group of people who have not been considered have been the men, who have married women who were forced to give up their child.

When an inquiry was conducted in New South Wales I read it very carefully because I was looking for information in respect to how I could improve the situation in my own marriage.

Prior to my wife finally being able to make contact with her child- a daughter – our family life was just as normal as any other family. However a number of things happened that I couldn't really understand.

We had moved from Perth to Canberra and both our sons were born there.

When our first child, a boy was born we had no help but as my wife is a nurse she coped very well.

When the second child, another son was born 18 months later my mother in-law came over from Perth to help, a very expensive exercise at that point in time.

When I came home from the hospital I was abused by this woman when I advised her that we had another son. Of course, I could not understand this and it was only after my wife

made contact with her child (a daughter) the reason for this abuse became obvious.

We hadn't had a daughter to replace the one that she had taken from her – Her mother was the only person in her family that knew that the baby was a girl.

Of course we were both keen to have a daughter, but unfortunately it was beyond our means at that point in time, so it was agreed that I would have a vasectomy.

Shortly after this decision had been made, my wife had to have a hysterectomy and so there was no chance for her to have another baby.

After a number of years we moved to Sydney and we were living there when the laws were change in Western Australia and my wife could express an interest to make contact with her child.

This she did and once she had made contact and found out that she had had a daughter, and more importantly what had happened to her child, life became very difficult not only for me, but also for our sons.

Her whole personality changed, not only because she built a wall around her in respect to her child, including my role but she also became very angry with the System that had deprived her of having a daughter.

I naively asked her mother for some support in locating the adoption organisation responsible, so that I could seek some advice as to how to help, not only her but also our family. After three requests her mother came back and advised me that she could not go behind her daughters back.

Finally my wife was able to made contact with her daughter, and she developed a good relationship with the whole family including the adopting family.

I also fostered the relationship by bringing them together both in Perth and here in the Eastern States, hoping that the anger towards me would be reduced.

However, the anger became worse and naturally it was taken out on me and also it began to have an impact on our two sons.

It was partially reduced when one of the sons had a daughter but when they moved it bacame worse, especially when our other son moved up here as well, and later had a daughter.

Of course we had to follow them up here. Before we moved I had a couple of meetings with Di Welfare and she was a great help and it was during these meetings that we discussed the problems of the Men who marry these women who have had a child taken from them.

Di was wonderful and it was the first time that she had thought about the husbands and the problems that they were also having.

There was a system where the women could get together to help each other, but no thought had been given to forming groups for the men.

In the New South Wales inquiry, it covered everyone except the men who have married these women.

Before Di passed away, I had a meeting with her to discuss this omission and she was quite shocked when she realised this important fact.

I have examined the submissions on your web site but the submissions made by men, are related to adopted sons.

I have mentioned this to Lily Arthur, and she too realises the importance of including the men/husbands, because of the wide range of difficulties that they have also had.

My family life has not been very pleasant since my wife found her daughter and her children. They live on the other side of Australia and therefore she is again deprived of the opportunity of helping her own daughter and forming a loving relationship with her other grandchildren.

In addition, it has also placed pressure on our own children, but fortunately they now understand her behaviour and problems, and are pleased that they have a mother who has the skills and love, to help them when needed.

Finally, I am not sure whether or not you will get any other submissions from men who marry these unfortunate women but hopefully, through this submission, your inquiry will also consider the impact of the Forced Adoption Policies and Practices on the husbands.

Yours Faithfully,

I would like this submission to be published on the Internet