

Judith Vickers

29 September 201

Dear Senators,

Commonwealth of Australia Inquiry into Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices.

I Judith Ann Vickers nee Anderson am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident in Queensland

As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia I had and still do have an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution, rule of law and the Common Law of this nation.

As an Australian citizen, the Commonwealth should have afforded us all protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threatened our right to life, liberty and justice from those who denied us all these rights, within and without, the borders of Australia.

We must live by the Australian Constitution, Rule of Law, and the Common Law of this country and Commonwealth politicians are elected to uphold Commonwealth Law meaning they will prevail over federal legislation, and by operation of section 109 of the Constitution, will override inconsistent state laws (whether past or future.)

I am a natural mother who would like to register my interest in this Committee's inquiry and acknowledge that it is an important step in addressing the issues of forced adoptions in the 1950's to the 1970's.

I believe the evidence into the Commonwealth Government's involvement in forced adoptions will change not only your understanding of this dark period of this Countries history but will increase your determination for the truth to be recorded so that the past is never repeated.

Please accept my letter and signature as a submission by registering my name as a participant in this Inquiry.

I thank you for this opportunity and join my sisters in standing as one, as we eagerly await our great Nation to hear and see the truth unfold. I would appreciate you adding my name and address to your mailing list that I can receive future correspondence and documents on the progress of this Inquiry.

In 1964 at the age of 13 I found myself pregnant and when my parents found out I was sent away so no one would know to a place called Carramar which was at Boomerang St, Turramurra, Sydney New

South Wales I cannot remember exactly how long I was there but I was there till shortly after I gave birth to my son on October 1964

During the pregnancy I had interviews re my son being adopted with the Woman I know as Matron who was in charge. I do not recall anyone else being present in the room at the time of these interviews i.e. my parents, a solicitor or a social worker only miss no one explained my rights or anything to me including the fact of how I would feel when the day came for me to sign the adoption papers or after that for many years

As a 14 year old I did not know what was happening or anything about this I just went along with it like a robot as I knew no different nor was told that I had a choice

When it came time for me to sign the adoption papers only Miss was in the room I asked to see my son but was told I could only see him after I signed the papers and not before no one ever told me about the 30 days I had to revoke my consent either

When I did get to see a baby it was through a glass window and the baby I saw was crying and I did not get to hold him or comfort him I loved him he was mine and nobody even comforted me no one seemed to care how I felt. I went on to have other children luckily but I never forgot him my first I would watch Australian TV shows and wonder if he was one of the children in them

The best way I can explain to you how I have felt all these years is by using the Daniel Morecombe case as an example and that is that your child has been abducted and you don't know where they are or even if they are alive or dead it is a cruel thing to do to a mother

Even though I signed the papers which I now know and understand was under duress (also Bullying)by the fact I was told I would not be allowed to even see my son until after I signed the papers to this day I don't know if it even was my son I saw I didn't get to say hello or goodbye to him. How could it even be legal as the legal age at the time was 21 not 14 who and where was my guardian my protector to ensure I knew the full impact of what I was doing.

It was not until 1983 before I started being able to talk to people about it and to finally understand I was grieving the loss of my child all these years.

Adoption is a cruel practice for the mother and the child this practice must stop

Yours Sincerely

Judith Vickers
