

(...)



4<sup>th</sup> March, 2011

Re: Senate Inquiry into  
"Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practices"

Department of the Senate  
PO Box 6100  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee

Firstly: I do not wish any identifying information referring to me or any indentifying information of my son, to be made (or become) Public Knowledge, so I will thank you to please ensure to Black-Out anything that would divulge my or his identity.

I, (...) am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident in Brisbane Queensland.

As an Australian citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia I have an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution and the Common Law of this country.

As an Australian citizen, the Commonwealth affords me protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threaten my right to life, liberty and justice from those who would deny me these rights, within and without, the borders of Australia.

I would dearly like to present this submission to the above Inquiry, as I do believe that "my son was wrongfully taken from me via means of deceit and lies".

Since 1973 I have endured severe emotional, nervous, mental and physical trauma and turmoil, and to this day it is still the most painful and traumatic event in my life.

I would like to be able to say that the consent to the adoption of my child was given without information of my legal rights, however I cannot say this, as "I wasn't even aware, I didn't even know that I had signed or when I had signed any Consent to Adoption Form or that I had ever seen a Child Care Officer from the Department of Children's Services", the reasons as to why I have no recollection of this ever happening, will become apparent to you, as it has to me, when I explain further.

I gave birth to my son at (...) Hospital ( (...) home for  
unwed mothers), at (...) Queensland, on the (...) June 1973.

I was allowed to see and nurse my son, however was not allowed to breast feed him (possibly because of the medications they had given me), when the day came for me to leave the Hospital, I automatically went to take my son with me, however the (...) told me and my parents that "I had signed The Papers" so I, his mother, was denied access to my son, but she told my parents that they were allowed to view him through the Nursery Window, I have never forgotten seeing my parents crying in each other's arms. When we returned to our home town, there had been crying all the way home, my mother rang the (...) and said that we were definitely returning straight back to (...) and picking up my son, the (...) was adamant "No, you cannot, (...) has signed the Papers", I had a Nervous Breakdown. Two weeks after leaving (...) my mother contacted (...) again and told the (...) that her and my father were coming to (...) and will be collecting their grandson on (...) 's behalf, the (...) 's reply was adamant "NO", and then the (...) proceeded to tell my parents, it was too late anyway, the child (my son) had already gone from the Hospital to his Adoptive Parents, then my parents asked the (...), why they had never been informed or advised about the process of the signing of any such forms, and that they had not given their consent for a girl of 16 years to supposedly sign such an important document as an Adoption Consent Form, and if (...) had signed it why weren't they, my parents, advised so as to be there with me at that supposed signing? The reply was: All we needed was the Birth Mothers Signature, it didn't matter that (...) is underage, and that they didn't need my parents consent to have (...) sign it. The only time that I can remember ever being asked a lot of questions, was just prior to being wheeled into the Labor Ward, but as far as I knew, those questions were required for the Birth Certificate, I had given all the information on myself and the child's father etc. only to be informed by the Queensland Adoption Service in 2010 that the details on the Father were not ever recorded on any Birth Certificate, or by the Queensland Adoption Service.

In 1975, while watching a program on TV, it was the first time I heard of the "30 days to withdraw the Adoption Consent", my life then totally fell apart, I ended up in Hospital again suffering a Total Physical, Mental, Nervous, and Emotional Breakdown, because I realized that the (...) at (...), had "LIED", and if I had supposedly signed the Adoption Consent Forms, then why was she saying an adamant "NO" and at no time had ever advised me or my parents, that there was a process that I could go through to be able to get my child back where he belonged, with me, his Natural Mother. I contacted the then Adoption Department of Children's Services, the Dept of Family Services, the Qld Adoption Service, and I have done so many many times over the past 37 years, and also The Salvation Army, but all anybody ever said was "Well you signed the Consent Form", I told them, I didn't even know I had signed or even seen the Form or anyone from their Departments, so I asked if I could be allowed to have a copy of the Adoption Consent Form, well when the copy of this form arrived in the Mail, my heart sank, as I honestly can say: "I do not recall ever seeing this Form before", and on reading it there is a section that refers to Revocation of Consent, well if I had ever seen this form or had ever been advised of my Legal Rights by either the Child Care Officer named (...) or the then (...)  
(...) why is it, that I had no knowledge about the 30days to withdraw the

consent, that is prior to seeing that TV program in 1975, but it does appear to be my signature from all those years ago, though my signature now is different, however there is also a query as to the supposed date of the signature, you see the form states that I signed it on the 18<sup>th</sup> June 1973, but that could not be correct, because my father worked so they would have been unable to come down to Brisbane on a week day to pick me (and my son) up from the Hospital, I know that I had already left (...) on the weekend 16<sup>th</sup> or 17<sup>th</sup> June 1973, so I wasn't even there on the Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 1973, but I also asked the Salvation Army if they had any records to do with my confinement in (...) Hospital, well they have sent me Hospital records and these records also show a discrepancy, these records say in one place that I was discharged on the Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> June 1973, and then in another place Monday 18<sup>th</sup> June 1973, but if you look at them, you will see that some member of the (...) Staff has clearly been "unsure if I was or wasn't there then", because it appears they have written the word "Satisfactory" and then they have whited it out, and over that they have then written the word "Discharged".

Also on the (...) Hospital Records, somebody has taken it upon themselves to write the words: For Adoption. Was this because I was 16 and unwed that they had me already earmarked, for the taking of my child? I had a boyfriend of 4 years, we went through school together, we would have got married one day in the future (he had already asked me to marry him, with each of our families knowledge and consent, it was a forgone conclusion), he had come to Brisbane to start an Apprenticeship, and, then I ended up in Brisbane as well, he was boarding at (...) and I was in (...) at (...), just over the hill from where he was staying, he used to come up to (...) to visit me, and the (...) and other staff of (...) all met him, they knew who he was and they also knew of our then future plans. I had every intention of keeping my child. As a result of all the trauma of what happened with (...) etc, my boyfriend and I blamed each other and then we just drifted apart. The Father of my child was never charged nor was there any mention of him being charged with Carnal Knowledge. Some years later he went on to marry someone else and have children with his wife, but I have never married (I have been unable to trust or love anyone since (...)) and I have no other children, in fact I had to have a Total Abdominal Hysterectomy some years ago. I have always felt that not only did I lose my son and his father, I also lost myself, and my life was changed forever. Oh, I do remember the (...) saying to me as I left (...) "you go on with your life and marry and have more children OF YOUR OWN", I believe the son I had just given birth to WAS MY OWN!

In the records, I received from my confinement in (...), I also received a copy of a Letter dated 3<sup>rd</sup> July 1973, (now remembering that the (...) had told my parents, my child had already gone, just two weeks after I had left the Hospital, and yet the Hospital's Records of my son, show that he was not discharged until 5<sup>th</sup> July 1973) that the Department of Children's Services sent to the Adoptive Parents, it was for them to hand to the (...) when they went up to see/take custody of my son, it clearly states the Given Birth Name of the Child, and also my name as the Mother. I feel that this gave opportunity to the Adoptive Parents to have known my identity for all these years and for them to have probably kept tabs on me, as to who and where I was, and what I was doing, and yet I was denied to know anything about my child until the change to the Qld Adoption Laws came into effect on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb 2010 and also, because they

had put in a Veto blocking me from knowing if he was even alive or not, that Veto was put in place the day before his 18<sup>th</sup> Birthday. My son revoked this Veto in 2010 and then on the 29<sup>th</sup> May 2010 we finally got to meet, it was the happiest day of my life, we hugged each other and cried and cried, and after sharing some time together, he asked me to meet his Adoptive Parents, which I did, then we all cried some more, as they thanked me for giving birth to such a wonderful son to them, I was happy but this deeply saddened me, as I knew at that moment that my son would never look upon me as "his mother or mum" and I would never get to hear him say the words calling me, "mum", and then on the 10<sup>th</sup> August 2010, I became a Grandmother but I also will never hear the words calling me "Grandma" from my Granddaughter either. I don't think you could ever imagine how I feel.

In reading through this (...) Hospital Record, you will also note that I was medicated, I had been given the drugs called: NEMBUTAL, AMYTAL, and also STILBOESTROL, and I think these three drugs are now prohibited for Human use in Australia. I do not know who authorized these drugs to be administered to me, but I believe that as a result of these drugs being given to me, that they are the reason for me being unaware of what was actually occurring and hence the reason why I do not remember supposedly signing the Adoption Consent Form or seeing anyone from the Department of Children's Services.

I know an Apology is not going to "make up for all the years that I have missed out on being a mother to my Son". I do believe that he was deceitfully kept from me, his Natural Mother. I do want someone to recognize and acknowledge, that what all those involved in the taking of my child for Adoption, have done to me, and my son, and to numerous other unwed mothers - it was INHUMANE and it was WRONG.

I believe, to the best of my knowledge, that this information is correct.  
Please find enclosed, photo copies of documents/records.

Please accept this as my submission.

Yours Sincerely,

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