

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Senate Inquiry into “Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practices.”

I, (...) am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident in the
State of Victoria

As a 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

This is an historical occasion. Never in the history of adoption world-wide has any Federal
Government been interested in or ever given consideration to the natural mothers of children
surrendered for adoption - UNTIL NOW. This will be the only chance we will have in our
lifetime to speak and be heard. We will never get this opportunity again.

1. Every mother, father, adoptee and family member has a legal right to this knowledge -
irrespective of how or if they wish to personally deal with it.
2. To keep this information from any mother and those affected is to further perpetuate
abuse and suffering.
3. And whether or not those affected wish to participate in the inquiry as part of their
own personal healing process is entirely their own business, but it is imperative they
must have this information otherwise we are no better than the industry that denied us
our rights and took our choices away in the first place.

Statement

I would dearly like to be able to present a submission to the above Inquiry but due to the
emotional turmoil of reliving the most painful and traumatic event in my life, I am unable to
do so in detail. I would like to state that the consent to the adoption of my child was given
without information of my legal rights

- I gave birth to my child at the Mater hospital, in Sydney on the (...) June 1963
- I was not allowed to see my child after birth
- I was not given information in regard to foster care for my child

- I was not informed of any lifelong future regret if I surrendered my child for adoption
- I was not given information on financial assistance that would enable me to keep my child

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1. I have still been denied my rights to this day to be able to write this submission, with fact and detail, as I applied for my records in October 2010, which are still denied to me. My secret is a continuing nightmare.
 2. I was born on (...) '1943 and lived at (...)
 3. I feel pregnant to my boyfriend in late 1962, and as a result I was sent interstate to give birth to a baby boy on (...) (...) 1963 – at Waitara, a single mothers home in Sydney
 4. I remember being restrained during my birthing process and placed in a “cell” in the basement of the Mater Hospital in Sydney where there was no windows or fresh air in the “cell”
 5. I never got to see, hold or feed my baby and the staff knew I wanted to keep him
 6. The initial trauma of childbirth continues as a lifelong experience due to flashbacks
 7. Over my lifetime I have attempted to marry three times and couldn't go through with it, as I feared a reoccurrence of my trauma in pregnancy
 8. As such trauma and fearfulness, I am unable to find trust in anyone.
 9. Those trust and fearfulness have caused the loss of my business to sustain an income – affected by ongoing depressive illness including self-worth and self-esteem.
 10. I attempted to support my son as an adult with disabilities on a financial level as he was neglected in his adoptive placement and now my son is deceased. I had the opportunity to care for him for about 6 months before his death.
 11. Due to my experience of being mortally ashamed, with feelings of guilt at the time of my first born, I have never gone onto marry nor have children again.

I would like to thank the Committee for the opportunity of expressing my experience of my past adoption practice, and with my submission to have “name withdrawn”.

Yours Faithfully
(...)

2/13/2011