

MARGARET LESLEY WHALAN
(NEE MARGARET WARD)

30/11/2010

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To, SENATE INQUIRY INTO FORCED ADOPTION POLICIES
I, MARGARET LESLEY WHALAN AM A CITIZEN
OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF AUSTRALIA, RESIDENT
IN N.S.W.

AS A CITIZEN OF AUSTRALIA, THE COMMONWEALTH
AFFORDS ME PROTECTION FROM THE UNLAWFUL AND
HARMFUL ACTIONS THAT THREATEN MY RIGHT OF
LIFE, LIBERTY AND JUSTICE FROM THOSE WHO
WOULD DENY ME THESE RIGHTS, WITH-IN AND
WITHOUT THE BORDERS OF AUSTRALIA.

IN LATE 1964 I WAS SENT BY MY
PARENTS TO
N.S.W. THIS WAS A PRESBYTERIAN
PRIVATE HOSPITAL FOR MOTHERS & BABIES AND
UN-MARRIED YOUNG GIRLS & WOMEN WHO WERE
PREGNANT.

THE FOLLOWING DETAILS ARE MY SUBMISSION
RE THE ILLEGAL AND OFTEN UGLY TREATMENT
THAT I AND MANY OTHER YOUNG WOMEN
ENDURED DURING AND AFTER OUR CONFINEMENT
AT THIS "CHRISTIAN" ESTABLISHMENT.

IT WAS NOT UNTIL 1997 THAT I HEARD OF
THE RIGHTS THAT I, UNDER ADOPTION REGULATIONS
AND LEGISLATION, WAS ENTITLED TO.

NEVER WAS I TOLD OF ALTERNATIVES

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TO ADOPTION WHICH WOULD ENABLE ME TO MAKE A FREE AND INFORMED DECISION ABOUT THE FATE OF MY LITTLE GIRL WHO WAS BORN 6/2/1968.

NEVER WAS I TOLD THERE WAS FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE OR TEMPORARY FOSTER CARE FOR MY CHILD UNTIL I COULD PROVIDE FOR MY BABY, OR ACCESS TO MAINTENANCE PROVISION THROUGH THE COURTS. INSTEAD I WAS BULLIED AND REFUSED THE RIGHT TO EVEN SEE MY LITTLE GIRL UNTIL I HAD SIGNED THE ADOPTION PAPERS.

NEVER WAS I TOLD I HAD THE RIGHT TO CHANGE MY MIND AFTER SIGNING THOSE PAPERS.

EVEN AFTER THE TRAUMA OF HAVING TO SIGN MY BABY OVER TO STRANGERS, I WAS ONLY PERMITTED TO SEE HER FROM A DISTANCE OF ABOUT 6 FEET. I WAS RESTRAINED BY 2 NURSES SO I COULD NOT EVEN HOLD HER. WOULD YOU CALL THIS JUSTICE OR FAIR TREATMENT, I CALL IT BLACKMAIL !!

NEVER DID I RECEIVE INFORMATION RE MY RIGHTS DURING MY PREGNANCY AND CONFINEMENT, ONLY BULLYING AND LIES. I FEEL THAT THOSE IN AUTHORITY CARRIED OUT GRAVE MISDEEDS OF HUMAN RIGHTS.

I WAS DENIED MY LEGAL AND HUMAN RIGHTS AS AN EXPECTANT MOTHER.

I WAS NOT TREATED WITH DIGNITY OR

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OR COMPASSION DURING MY LABOUR.

I DID NOT SEE MY LITTLE GIRL AFTER SHE WAS BORN, INSTEAD A PILLOW WAS PLACED OVER MY HEAD UNTIL SHE WAS TAKEN AWAY FROM THE LABOUR WARD.

I WAITED FOR NEARLY 3 HOURS AFTER GIVING BIRTH FOR A DOCTOR (NONE PRESENT DURING MY LONG LABOUR) TO COME AND REPAIR THE TEARING OF MY BIRTH CANAL (27 SUTURES).

I HEARD THE PHONE CONVERSATION ~~BEW~~ BETWEEN THE MIDWIFE AND DOCTOR RE MY BIRTHING INJURIES AS THE PHONE WAS AT TOP OF MY HEAD. I HEARD THE DOCTOR SAY = "THE LITTLE SLUT WILL HAVE TO WAIT - I'M ENTERTAINING."

NEVER WAS I AWARE OF ANY OPTION BUT ADOPTION DUE TO THE GESTAPO LIKE TREATMENT AND BULLYING DISHED OUT TO MYSELF AND THE OTHER UN-MARRIED EXPECTANT MOTHERS.

I CRIED CONSTANTLY AT NIGHT AND WHEN I WAS IN THE SHOWER. WE GIRLS WORKED UP TO 14 HOURS EACH DAY IN THE HOSTEL AND HOSPITAL COMPLEX. SURELY THE GROSS INDIGNITIES HAVE ATTRIBUTED TO THE EMOTIONAL MERRY-GO-ROUND THAT I HAVE RIDDEN ALL THESE YEARS.

I UNDERSTAND NOW, THAT UNDER THE ADOPTION ACT 1965 DURESS CLAUSE, LEGISLATION DICTATED THAT IT WAS AN

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OFFENCE TO COERCE, EXERT UNDER PRESSURE OR ATTEMPT TO INFLUENCE ME IN ANY WAY TO SURRENDER MY BABY FOR ADOPTION. THOSE PEOPLE WHO WERE INSTRUMENTAL (eg THE SOCIAL WORKER / MATRON ETC) IN DENYING ME MY RIGHTS SHOULD BE BOUGHT TO TASK THROUGH A ROYAL COMMISSION INTO THE CRIMES PERPETRATED UPON MY CHILD AND ME THROUGH OUR FORCED SEPARATION.

I ASK THAT THE CRIMES PERPETRATED UPON ME (AND OTHERS) AND MY CHILD WHEN I WAS A YOUNG WOMAN IN A VULNERABLE AND OPPRESSED POSITION BE RECOGNISED AND ACKNOWLEDGED PUBLICALLY, AND THE MYTHS ADOPTION HAS BEEN BIASED ON TO FINALLY BE DISPELLED.

ONLY FULL AND HONEST DISCLOSURE OF PAST ADOPTION PRACTICES WILL HELP MY CHILD AND I REGAIN OUR DIGNITY AS HUMAN BEINGS, AND HOPEFULLY ENABLE US TO BEGIN TO HEAL FROM OUR FORCED SEPARATION.

ALL MY ADULT LIFE I HAVE LOOKED AT EVERY CHILD, TEENAGER & ADULT FEMALE, WONDERING IF THEY COULD BE MY LITTLE GIRL.

YOURS FAITHFULLY & SINCERELY

Margaret Whalan