

## Adoption Secrets

My experience and involvement in adoption is as a member of one of the Groups of people, which were not included in the New South Wales Inquiry.

This is the Group of Men who married the women who had their children stolen from them.

A Group, which may need support to help if they are going to be able to minimise all the impacts of the problems, which arise.

I rang Di Welfare after I had been through the Report and raised it with her, a Group she had not even thought about.

In the early years of our marriage it was relatively easy and normal. We had two sons and no chance to have any more children but my wife still seemed to be happy and content.

However, when my second son was born I was abused by wife's mother.

Abuse that I couldn't understand until my wife was reunited with her stolen child and found out the sex of the baby she had taken away from her. It was a girl.

At this point in time it all became quite clear, my second son hadn't replaced the daughter her mother had taken from her own daughter.

In fact, I later found out that her mother had even destroyed the birth certificate and that my wife never knew the sex of her child until they were reunited.

Her mother has never forgiven her for being raped and having a child out of wedlock. Even the rapist was protected to ensure that no one knew and that their family name would be protected!

Despite her mother trying to destroy her relationship with her daughter in the early days of their reunion our family relationship with her daughter, husband and kids is wonderful.

However, since the re-union our own personal family life/relationship has become extremely difficult and fragile, a relationship further complicated by her mother who still believes she has done the right thing.

Before Di passed away I had her help and support but despite my wife thinking she is okay and not emotionally affected by it all, my own life has become very difficult.

Now I have no real support. The sensitivities are a constant pressure and the options don't warrant consideration.

I understand that there have been many cases where marriages have broken down and the consequences have not been pleasant.

However, I made a promise to Di that I would never leave but I must admit it has become an extremely difficult promise to keep.

This is not an adoption secret but it is impossible to discuss these issues with my wife without further complicating the fragile situation.

Maybe my own situation will improve once her mother passes away.

One of the outcomes of the Report was to foster the exchange of experiences between the women themselves. After one of these group meetings my wife came home and told me that she didn't realise how lucky she was.

If it is not too late, some of the women groups could consider getting their husbands together to exchange their own views and ideas on this important issue.

I am sure there are many other men who have had a similar experience and want to make sure their wives don't have to go through any more pain.