

The Chairman of the Standing Committee
on Family and Human Services.

Mrs Bronwyn Bishop
House of Representatives.

Parliament House Canberra.

Mrs Lyn Kington.

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Vic. [REDACTED]

8.6.05.

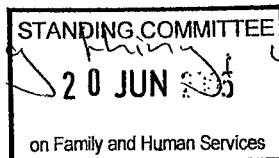
SUBMISSION NO. 195

AUTHORISED: 21-07-05 ; *hll/wh*

Dear Mrs Bishop.

I am the person named above. I take this opportunity to write to you to enquire, if you have knowledge of the white stolen generation?

I was a single girl of 16 in 1963 when I became pregnant, a traumatic situation for my child's father and me. He was summoned to my home to be told if he was ever to have contact with me again my father would see to it that he was jailed. I was taken to Russell St Police to give a statement on how I became pregnant. My Mother was determined I was to have an abortion. which I refused but the outcome was that I go to an unmarried mothers home. Berry St East Melbourne. My Mother took me to the Royal Women's Hospital to book for my confinement. We had an interview with the almoner and it was determined my baby would be adopted. I was never given any option. I was told that was what I must do because I had done the wrong thing, I was unmarried and pregnant.



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² It was a relief to escape the trauma of home and a comfort to be with other terrible girls like me.

The matron at Berry St continually told us how bad we were and what we had to do. If we loved our babies we had to give them up, because

we owed them better than what we could give.

I know the matron was very angry when I said I couldn't do it.

My daughter was born. 24.12.1963. I kept her beside me until the hospital decided ^{she} was too small so had to stay in the nursery. I couldn't then only visit. Only later did I realize it was a way to separate us.

I didn't tell my Mother I had access to her because I knew she would put a stop that. I said to my

Mum I can't go home without her and she said well you can't come home.

31.12.1963. a nurse was sent from Berry St to collect me without my baby. I was dragged out of the hospital to a taxi, screaming. I arrived back at Berry St in the most distressed state I have ever experienced.

The matron said I hope you've learnt your lesson I had signed nothing to release my baby for adoption. I certainly did not give my consent to be separated from her

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I was collected from Berry St by my sister and her boyfriend. I was not allowed to mourn the loss of my child I was told I was bad and had to get on with my life and pretend all this had never happened. Some time in January. I was sent back to Berry St on my own to sign the adoption papers. I was told if I didn't sign I was very selfish because I couldn't have her and she would have to grow up in an orphanage. Amazing I was too young to vote or have a drivers licence or get a loan without a guarantee but not too young to sign away my own baby, also all details of education nationality colouring were recorded about her father yet on her birth certificate some one has put father unknown. That was so his daughter could be stolen from him too. I eventually married then had a stillborn daughter and was told not to cry in front of my Mother because I had put her through enough. I am explaining this for you to understand I don't think my parents thought of me as a person more a responsibility that let them down. I had 4 more children who all knew they had a sister we would do our best to find I was divorced and remarried a wonderful

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Husband who supported us in our search of my daughter. We were reunited in 1984 and continue to try and repair the damage of the lost years.

I know there are thousands of stories like mine, many women are unprepared to come forward because they still suffer the trauma and tag of bad or wierd for giving their baby up.

Why has there been no inquiry into this abuse, it seems to be ignored or pushed aside as unimportant. Only recently my own sister told me I got what I deserved. Do we have to exist in a community that is so uninformed.

We need an inquiry for children who think they were abandoned. and also for mothers like me who were abandoned. Some of whom will only watch the process from a distance but would benefit from the exposure of the system.

We have seen benefit into the exposure of the Stolen generation of aboriginal people, Children of the British Empire Children in Institutional care. now, an inquiry into over-seas adoption. Does this mean. sixty four thousand or more in the period approx 1960-1983 don't count. How strange there was such a short time in history about 25 years that women willingly disposed of their precious children. Please consider this or do we all just die with out justice. Thank you for reading this
Yours Sincerely Lyn Kinghorn.