

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs
Department of the Senate
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Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Email: legcon.sen@aph.gov.au

8th April 2008

Dear Sir/Madam,

I work as a Bringing Them Home Counsellor; I am sixty years of age. I have worked in this position for approximately six years. I am also an Anaiwan Woman from the New England Area of NSW.

Our whole family (from my Grandparents down) were.....and continue to be directly impacted upon, and affected by the forced removal of children from within our family and community. As were many thousands of other Indigenous Families throughout Australia.

In most instances throughout Australia our children were forcibly removed for not being “neglected or abused” but just because we were “Aboriginal”.

During my families and communities lifetime I have seen so much trauma, grief and pain suffered inter - generationally by Indigenous Australians because of a totally; (bastardly), inhuman, ethnocentric, government of the day, whose sole policy it was, was to attempt “try and weed out the aboriginal problem”.

My two Uncles’ were sent to Kinchella Boys Home. Where one uncle was beaten with a dog’s chain because he stole a piece of old stale bread that was left sitting on the kitchen table, because my uncle was hungry!

A number of Aunties were sent to Cootamundra Girls Home. They were all told that their mother (My Nan) was dirty and filthy and didn’t want them. For years they believed this to be true.

My uncle B successfully returned to the family many years later, but only after he had been forced to work on stations for a pittance, (if he was lucky)! Often they were paid no monies at all. My Uncle did serve time in jail.

My other uncle P had been raised to believe black women “could be bought” and when he did attempt to reconnect to family and community and exhibited those learned behaviours, e.g. buying young Indigenous females, (approximate ages 11/12

years) watches and other gifts and touching these young girls inappropriately...my other uncle was going to kill him. Uncle P left and the family have not seen nor heard of him since!

My Aunt was raised as “a good little white girl” and as soon as she turned 16 years my Aunt was sent to a station out western NSW where she worked (also for a pittance) as a domestic servant.

No amount of money could compensate our family for the trauma; the grief and loss, the degradation, the absolute destroying of our heart and souls, nor the loss of our babies, nor the right to raise our children with the love and respect that most never received from the institutions, nor the non Indigenous foster homes, nor the cattle stations they were sent to where they were used as cheap labour which helped make richer the non Indigenous station owner.

But the decent thing is to try! Please!!

Ms Tjannarra Dyuwula-Morris