



26-04-05

The Select Committee on Mental Health  
To Whom it may Concern,

I am a mother who lost a baby to adoption in 1967. I was put in a Church run Home, St Mary's Toowong in Brisbane. I wasn't given any other choice, if I had've I would have kept my son. I was sent off to hospital on my own in the middle of the night, the nurses were very rude to me, and when I gave birth I was pushed down + held down, so I never ever saw my son. At the moment of birth it felt like my life went away in my son's body with him. That was my uninformed mind trying to deal with a loss of that magnitude and not knowing what to do about it.

I've suffered major depression ever since and haven't known what to do about it. I tried going to 3 psychologists and even a psychiatrist, and they were all hopeless, they were totally uninformed about the long term effects of adoption loss and all of them re-traumatised me even more. Now I'm afraid to seek out help.

I have had 4 subsequent children who are all very high achievers with 6 University degrees between them, but I still feel a deep sense of loss and grief for my first son. It doesn't go away with time it gets worse.

I've done everything I possibly can to overcome depression + nothing works.

I can't go on like this. I need help. It's appalling that the Civil Court has done so little to help us. What they did to us was a breach of human rights. They stole our babies off us and then they blamed the victim. eg "They slept around + deserved what they got" "They didn't want their babies anyway" "They were bags of trash that didn't deserve their babies".

We have been much maligned by a system that deliberately deprived us of our babies and our loss needs to be acknowledged not hushed up.

And they know of the long term effects of adoption loss then and they're certainly well aware of it now.

I feel we need a National Inquiry into Past Adoption Practices. We need help and we need acknowledgement of past wrongs.

I can't keep grieving for the rest of my life, it's ruining my life and it's ruining my husband's life, in fact I'm lucky I've still got one.

60% of mothers were so traumatised by the way they were treated that they never had any other children. They did it to punish us, and they knew what they were doing.

I've even seriously considered and even planned my own suicide, because I had no one to turn to for help.

Up until now psychologists have said we didn't want our babies and so we didn't suffer any loss. We have been teaching the psychologists but at our own expense. The ones I came across were totally inept

and quite frankly I'm sorry I didn't report them.  
It's time you stopped ignoring our needs and  
helped us.

Sincerely Yous  
R. Wilson

 )

Sorry, my printer wasn't working.