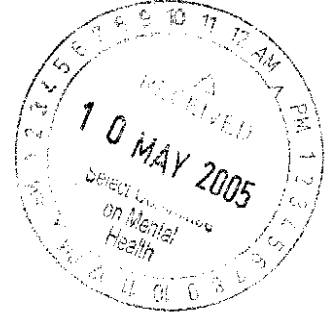


8. 05. 2005



Committee Secretary
Senate Select Committee on Mental Health
Department of the Senate
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600

Dear Committee

As a person who had the state as a parent from 1936 to 1953 I would like to record the following:

- Trauma of forced removal because of poverty in the depression 19thth old.
- Institutionalized at Melb. Girls Depot.
- Poor selection of foster parents, annual supervision, lack of knowledge & failure to remove when abused
- Invalid adoption proceedings 1953 without my knowledge, consent, presence. Adoption discharged 2002
- Failed to provide psychiatrists with information re fostering or adoption despite their written requests.

In 1985 the adoption act was changed - too little too late. As a state ward I have suffered stigma, abuse, lack of identity, alcoholism, phobia, depression, miscarriage - all in a climate of "keeping things in the family" blaming the victim, no counselling. How many State Wards have liked me, tried to commit suicide, experienced shock treatment?

Others are probably in gaol.

There has been no recognition as far as I am aware by the Victorian Gov. Department. A promise to hold adoption enquiry has now being denied. If the above occurred through a church's action - they would have to recognize & apologize - with the Department there is no accountability or responsibility.

This needs addressing.

Yours sincerely



P.S. Sorry this isn't typed - but I wanted to ensure it was received in time.

Thanks