

Kim Taylor

Submission

Senate Inquiry into Forced Relinquishment//Adoption Practices, Past and Current

Subsequent child following the loss of 2nd Child Taylor to Queensland Adoption 1987

This is an extensive paper. And it is unfinished.

It was very difficult and traumatic to write, and there is much I have not included.

It has evoked great distress, grief, despair, hallucinations, terror dreams, disorientation in time, dizziness, a burning on the skin and an ache only a mother who has lost a child knows, remorse and a dislocation from life and the present.

For as many pages I have written here I have notes in files on my computer

I would strongly advise that the inquiry set up counseling for the people involved, so that they can be supported and assisted in recounting their stories. It is not an easy task, and one that leaves the person vulnerable and not functioning so well.

I am not embellishing when i write that over the past months every person I speak with regarding this has been affected by past adoption policies and practices and its pro removal ethos. To the point that I don't want to go out anymore. I would estimate that for every one person who has stepped, there ten who have not, and that there are many affected who not aware of the inquiry.

I am aware I have not included my personal story. I can write this, I have it in bits and pieces on my desk top and can submit later. Alternatively I can meet with you in a conference to discuss this.

For the moment you have Dr Geoffrey Rickarby's assessment of me which is a fair over view.

Similarly I will provide the mental health part of the inquiry at a later date.
Again, Dr Rickarby summarises my damage well in his report.

I would also like to raise the point here that the Inquiry has couched the terminology in the language of the possessor, incorrectly. This should be an inquiry on forced relinquishment, not adoption. I don't know of too many people who were forced to adopt children (though I have heard stories of such coercion). ***It is the process of making mothers and families relinquish***, that is to surrender their children / and infants that is under examination and where the assault has occurred, and where that the state and it's institutions have invested so much energy.

This, I believe, is an important point, as it is the point of loss, the point of separation, the moment of devastation, the moment of the primal wound, the point of relinquishment, that moment at which the mother and her child and the extended family suffer and are irrevocably damaged. And that the law and the institution have invested great infrastructure to maintain and uphold, in creating false birth certificates, guillotine laws that re-fute and over ride nature, systematic administrative processes and internal hospital protocol that enable, facilitate and enforce the continued separation of child and parents. The rest is detail.

Yet, it would seem as a culture, ***we avoid this point of loss and separation***, preferring to gloss over this moment of extreme loss and abandonment and devastating grief, and couch it in the terminology of the possessor, the mythical happy after story, the adoptive placement. Even in its own inquiry, the mother and the child, and the act of separation and the experience of abandonment by both mother and child, is invisible.

If healing is to happen, our society needs to come out of its collusion with this cultural denial and address it honestly and whole heartedly.

This is an enquiry on forced relinquishment, where we look at what the powers that be and the administrators of our culture did, and do, in order to procure a consent from a mother in order to obtain an infant.

Until it is localized on this point, the separated child and mother must live in the shadows of the over bearing hype and social denial of the Adoption Industry.

I don't think The Adoption Act was never meant to be about causing the abandonment of an infant to benefit the placement into a prospective adoptive unit. It was set up to protect the mother and the child, and address the needs of a child unable to be kept by it's family unit, in the short or long term.

But it is what it has become, through lobbying of self interested parties, and through the systematic planning and execution of powers, bodies and individuals within support networks, on unsuspecting and unwilling mothers.

There is no happy ending thereafter in forced relinquishment. Even in the secondary process of placement, many of those, including, I believe, the placement of my son, was not an ideal situation, and in fact one that should have been avoided if possible. My son should have been kept within his family or his extended family, that is with myself or with his extended paternal family. He has been severely disserved as a result of his placement, as has his paternal grandparents who never were given the opportunity to know him and the grandfather of whom has now deceased. There is no time for recompense and sorries now for him, there is no going back.

I have lived with the adoption industry all my life

With the removal of my adopted cousins from their mothers and into our extended family.

With my friends who were adopted and not allowed to know their own mothers.

With the loss of my own son to Queensland Adoption in 1987.

With the continuing discreditation of my grief and need to know my son, and the continued separation of my son from myself and his sisters.

With the continued suffering from the loss of my son and my treatment in the hospital and thereafter by the department and so called 'professionals' engaged in positions of employment to assist but failing.

With the lack of address by organizations funded to assist and care for people in trauma and need

With my legal case and my attempt to organize contact with my first born through the legal system in the Supreme Court of Queensland, and failing on the statute of limitations

With my needs being subjugated and treated as secondary to the closed minds and perceived needs of the infertile couple who took my son and then did not even have the decency or heart to let me know my son, if he was dead or alive, to send him a gift or to be in some small way be part of this beautiful boys life.

The adoption industry has taken a great deal of my life away from me.

It has stolen joy, trust, and the ability to love and be loved.

Giving a child up for adoption has been presented in our culture as a lifestyle choice, an easily achievable arrangement, one that is equitable. the mental health damage and risk to the mother and child has been repressed and sublimated to protect the adoption industry and allow it to continue. through the non information in the general public and in the medical professions it has put mothers and children at risk and damage to injury and ongoing injury. NO WHERE else in a health field would this be seen as acceptable or even lawful. It is because it backs onto the taboos of sex, out of wedlock conception, young women's health and the welfare of children that such abuse and misinformation has been allowed.

It is not in the interest of a healthy culture or a good mental health to allow such misinformation and discrimination to continue.

It is only in the interest of small but ever growing minority of infertile people to allow such harmful and distressing practices and abuses to continue.

I dedicate this to my three children, my future grandchildren and great grandchildren, to the families lost and destroyed by this process, to past, current and future mothers, to the young girls and boys across the world who are children now and who will be targeted to supply infants to people who think they have an inalienable right to someone else's child, and lock them away from each other for the rest of their young lives, in order to service their own need to create a false family and meet their own needs and compensate for their own inadequacy and lack. (whatever the justification);

and i dedicate this to the mothers who were defeated by this cruel law and heartless situation, who have suicided from their heart break of not being able to hold or know their own child, or who have destroyed themselves waiting for a fairer time in life when they could re-meet their child and be treated and respected like a human. To you I wish you love, respect, and justice.

I ask that this be read and listened to so that no mother or child need suffer what i have had to endure.

And I ask that these points be acknowledge and these changes be made, that mothers and children be treated with respect and truth, love and support, protection and care, regardless of their background and family history and own childhood, that they be greeted with help and assistance, not exploitation and opportunism, and that we move toward a better, more loving and equitable world.

Kim Taylor

My three beautiful children, reunited.