

Senate Inquiry into forced adoption policies and practices.

Submitted by Mary KING.

In 1958 I was adopted from St Margaret's Hospital, Darlinghurst in Sydney. My foster father was aged 54 years and my foster mother was 40 years of age. My adoption was private through the Supreme Court of NSW. My foster mother informed me that it took months for my biological mother to sign the adoption papers.

My skin was dark or olive as my foster parents would say and they often commented that I was Italian or Greek. I believe that I am Indigenous but have not been able to verify this as my birth certificate is incomplete. My mother's birth date is not on my birth certificate and the only King born in Sydney in 1935 as the birth certificate states is not my mother. So as a 53 year old woman I have never found my home, my family or culture.

Not knowing where I belong has kept me looking for over 40 years. The very essence of having an identity and the right to be part of a family was stolen from me. This transgenerational loss naturally affects my children as I have carried this in my personal interactions and day to day experience.

I am grateful for the opportunity to write about my adoption as it acknowledges the loss and hopefully it will assist others in further adoption practices.

It is important issue for me that the Senate is aware of the human need to be part of or to have knowledge of your family and how essential to your holistic wellbeing this is. The forced adoption practices meant people like me may never know where their family is and what that could mean.

We all will have our trauma stories but I have not stopped working at my own healing and the possibility that one day soon I will be acknowledged as part of my family.