

Submission from:

(...)

Senate Inquiry into

“Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practices.”

I forgot to mention in my submission that 36 years later when I received a copy of form V which was a preliminary application for the adoption of a child I noticed that it states on the form that the form must be “completed in the applicant’s own handwriting”. My signature was on the form but all other handwriting is not mine. Similarly only my signature is in my own handwriting on the consent to adopt form. This means that the forms were either filled in prior to me signing them or were completed after I signed them. Putting duress, coercion and the fact that I was under the legal age to sign a contract I wonder if the above also means that the consent was never legally valid.

I also found out that I could have reclaimed my baby at any time until the adoption order was approved on 5 November 1969. I was not told this and thought that after 30 days the adoption was permanent. I should have been informed of my legal rights.