



Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia.

RE: Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption
Policies and Practices.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Preamble to Submission.

I, Gai Mailer am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident of Queensland.

As an Australian citizen, the Commonwealth affords me protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threaten my right to life, liberty and justice from those who would deny me these rights, within and without, the borders of Australia.

I submit the copy of a letter that I have sent to The Royal Womens Hospital in Melbourne regarding my experience in 1970 as a relinquishing mother. I would like this be acknowledge as part of this inquiry as I was denied my rights of choice and proper informed consent.

I was intimidated and discriminated against as a unwed/single mother and felt that I was given no options or assistance from the staff to enable me to keep my baby. My son will be preparing a submission/statement also. I hope that the inquiry outcome will promote informed consent and changes within the adoption laws.

I have requested a copy of my medical records but I am again I am discriminated against. The form from the Royal Womens Hospital, Melbourne states that I am exempt under sections 31,33,,35 and 38 of the Freedom of Information Act.

I await your reply.

Gai Mailer

Dear Complaints Officer
The Royal Women's Hospital
Locked Bag 300
Grattan St & Flemington Rd
Parkville Vic. 3001.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I was intimidated by my Case Worker/Social Worker and treated like a worthless mother and advised that "if I loved my baby I would give him up"; also I was told that "nothing to offer him and that he would go to a good home and married parents. "

The attitude of the Social Worker was one of discrimination against unwed mothers and the objective of that department was to place babies with parents as I was advised there was a long waiting list. I was also told that I had no option but to give my baby away. I cried and begged the Social Worker for any other options of maybe a job and work as a Housekeeper/Nanny any thing to enable me to keep my baby.

I was advised that there were no options for me and I felt pressured to sign the adoption papers prior to my discharge as my baby was being placed in a foster care situation for six weeks. I was told that because I was going back to NSW it would allow the adoption process to go ahead more smoothly.

I was a young 17 year old girl that was very respectful to any sort of authority and I was very intimidated by the Case Worker.

The father of our baby and I have been married now for 40 years and we met our son when he was 17 years and 4 days old. We still have constant contact with him and his family.

I have been grieving all these years due to the fact that I relinquished my baby and he and I have missed out of 17years and 4 days of his life. Our whole family has felt the injustice of the discrimination and intimidation that I suffered. Our son has also missed out on us as parents as well as his other three siblings born after our marriage. The aboriginal's talk about the "stolen generation" well I believe that the system and society's views regarding unwed mothers were on par with the "stolen generation".

My son and I wish to be formally recognised as part of the class action against The Royal Women's Hospital and seek an official apology and compensation. I also request that I be allowed access to my medical chart under the "Freedom for Information Act."

I await your reply.

Yours sincerely,