

In Australia the mother/child
relationship exists in law
as a consequence of birth.

TRUTH BODY TO PROBE

“COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION TO FORMER FORCED
ADOPTION POLICIES AND PRACTICES.”

PREFACE

Submissions are being received as a result of the Commonwealth Government Senate supporting Senator Rachel Stewart, Australian Greens motion for the Community Affairs Reference Committee to examine the Commonwealth Government's role in forced adoption policies from the late 1940s to the 1980s.

Senator Rachel Stewart, Greens spokesperson for Community Services says

*“the Committee's inquiry is an important step in addressing the issue of forced adoption and comes in the **wake of the WA Parliament's formal apology to those affected by the policies.**”*

The Hands of Time have now turned



It has taken 41 years for this historic moment to arrive and firstly, I would like to pay tribute to the mothers like Pat Harper who formed the “National Council for Single Mothers and her Child” in 1969 and their members who became active in the pursuit of Single parents rights.

They stood up for the right of every child to know, be acknowledged by and have the financial support of both parents. At their annual conference in 1969, single mothers from Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales attended together with the diverse groups (adoption agency workers, adoptive parents, foster parents, natural parents, adopted children, lawyers, doctors, representatives from State welfare departments and other important community groups. **As a result of all these groups joining in ‘forced adoptions’ ceased over the next couple of years.**

To Dr. Tim Blashki, my counselor, mentor and friend who over the past 40 years never allowed me to give up on myself or **the pursuit of truth. His wisdom and guidance to face ‘my own reality’ and accept that the grief, suffering and pain of losing my daughter is and will always be woven through the fabric of my life.**

To Mr. Darren Chester, Federal Member for Gippsland and his staff for their ongoing support throughout my plight in the pursuit of truth. Mr. Chester’s patience, compassion and support also strengthened me to remain standing believing that the truth will be heard one day.

I pay tribute to Anne Deveson Chairperson of **Royal Commission into Human Relationships August 1974** adding to the changing fabric of **forced adoptions.** The television documentary produced by her in 1965 on unmarried mothers (aired Channel 7) together with the ABC coverage on Four Corners in 1970 of the plight of unmarried mothers.

I give thanks to all the natural mothers who broke their silence during my 18 years of research to finally talk about their grief, pain and suffering. I pay tribute to the natural mothers who found the grief, pain and suffering too much to bear and are no longer with us to take part in this historic moment.

I honor the babies that died whilst in care waiting adoption who were used as ‘guinea pigs’ by Commonwealth Serum Laboratories (under the control of the Commonwealth Government then) and to the babies that lived through these drug experiments. (See notes in Commonwealth Government Community Affairs Final Report on Institutional Care).

To Sister Catherine Quirk, Sister Joan Healey (Josephite Nuns) and Jenny Glare, MacKillop Family Services Victoria for their compassion and willingness to listen to natural mothers. I place on record my acknowledgement of all their efforts over the past 15 years, extending their hand of friendship to those that were and still are, willing to reach out and take their hand of friendship and healing. Included further in my submission is MacKillop Family Services submission presented to Commonwealth Senate Inquiry into Institutional Care – Acknowledging Mothers.

I pay tribute to my Dad who died in my arms months after the birth of my daughter. My dad never recovered from the grief, pain and suffering he and I endured following the loss of his first grand daughter.

I pay tribute to the late Yvonne Dolman (a grandmother) who stood up until she could stand no longer and fought for **the pursuit of truth** for her late daughter. Victoria Government has Mrs. Dolman's extra ordinary truth documents in their keeping.

I extend my thanks to the Western Australian Government who stood up without reserve and apologized to W.A. unmarried mothers in October 2010 and as a result of their apology have been the catalyst of this historic moment.

I pay tribute to the late Dian Welfare (Origins Inc) for her efforts in continuing to fight for natural mothers to be heard.

I pay tribute to **Janet Tough** who I met at the Public Records Office of Victoria some 15 years ago – for allowing me to be 'behind the scenes' of the **informative and emotional documentary that was filmed on her personal pursuit of truth.**

I pay tribute to all natural mothers who when it would have been easier to lie down, have remained standing so their voices could be heard in the pursuit of truth at personal sacrifices.

I salute my friend who in 1972 as a teenager fought against the pressures placed on her following the birth of her daughter – from hospital staff to give up her baby.

The words of Nelson Mandela whilst he was incarcerated are pertinent for the natural mothers who have fought since 1969 to the present day for the pursuit of **truth. 41 years is a long time to wait for this moment.**

Unconquerable, Unbowed, Unafraid

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INTRODUCTION

I request that my name is withheld under Parliamentary Privilege but permission is granted for my Submission to be published on your website. It is totally impossible for me to present to the Senate Inquiry 18 years of research into **forced adoptions** discovering the Commonwealth and State Government documents of responsibility for the crimes of 'separating mother and baby at birth' with the intent to fulfill 'adoption' requests.

I raise grave concerns that other submissions you will receive will be based on New South Wales adoption practices and each State had its own adoption practices and procedures. In New South Wales an unmarried mother is believed to have lost guardianship of her baby at the end of the 30 day Revocation period – **that is totally not the case in Victoria and a misconception in other States.**

As I glance back through my collection of documents, **I sincerely hope that all submissions will be read and treated equally. Thousands of hours will have been spent putting submissions together – and many tears shed at the same time.**



“We made it.

**This is the day so many Mums around Australia
have been waiting for”.**

I salute all Mums around Australia as

We stand as one – united together.

Let’s begin the pursuit of truth.

My concerns are that throughout my research and meetings with past adoption workers, they many still stand by the **myths** of the past, and have been unable to **accept the truth and reality of what happened to unmarried mothers and their babies.** Further, it is important to point out that **many unmarried mothers** were over the age of 21 (Australian Bureau of Statistics) and it becomes confusing when analyzing **forced adoptions** because an unmarried mother under the age of 21 (and

later 18) was seen by the law as being a child (a minor) and a person over 21 (and later 18) is seen as an adult.

So much has been written on **unmarried mothers (children)** having their legal rights further violated because they were underage as the social workers took the instructions from a parent or guardian that the baby was to be adopted – taking away a natural mother’s rights further. If this is correct the human rights of a natural mother were further violated because the natural mother had all legal and lawful rights Under Law and Practice as the mother to their baby.

YES HURRAH WE ARE ON THE WAY



TO BEING HEARD.

**I pay special tribute to the staff at
The National Archives of Australia (Victoria Office) and the
Staff at Public Records Office of Victoria for their
Invaluable support and patience throughout
My research – at times emotions getting
The better of me.
I am indebted to all these people.
I express my deepest gratitude.**



At the time of the birth of a baby, motherhood is also born and for any authority to keep a mother and a baby separated at birth is an unthinkable action.

**“The price of protecting people’s rights is eternal
Vigilance” (Thomas Jefferson)**

A natural mother’s



and bond for her baby can never be destroyed.



Senate Committee

The responsibility now given to the members of the Senate Committee is supreme and absolute to listen compassionately and to show genuine concern to all submissions. The truth must be the benchmark of each member's conscience as they read each



submission, imagining that they are part of the event. A natural mother and her baby shared a momentous event with enormous cultural meaning, which should have resulted in contact and acknowledgement of one another until death.

Female Committee members must visualize the scene of the separation of mother and baby at birth, hear the voices and feel the emotions of 'a mother' and allow their truth to come to life. For the male members of the Committee it is important to remember that in fathering a child conjures up an image very different from '**mothering**' a child.

To father is understood to mean physically reproducing a child through a woman. It will not be an easy thing for members of the Senate Committee to do because the emotions are heart wrenching and everlasting. **Full** attention must be given and absorbed in what they are hearing and reading.

Natural mothers were psychologically manipulated through their pregnancy, during the birth and thereafter by professional medical staff and hospital workers. Many natural fathers denied fatherhood but were good enough to be conscripted into our forces and sent to Vietnam by the Commonwealth Government. — **Note:** Many young Australian men married so they did not have to go to Vietnam but many shipped to Vietnam and denied fatherhood.

Perceiving the feelings and the truth is a challenge because each of you must be willing to listen as each mother expressing their personal grief. Sincere positive words in your report to Parliament will mean so much however few they may be. Throughout my submission I will include the words of many others who in the past, have acknowledged the grief, pain and suffering natural mothers did and still are enduring today.

The main sign posts of evidence into Commonwealth Government's involvement in **forced adoptions will, I believe, change your understanding of this country's**

history and will increase your determination for the truth to be recorded so that the past is NEVER REPEATED AGAIN.

The Commonwealth Government through their Immigration policies separated young migrant mothers and babies at birth giving clear instructions to all States' public hospital administration and medical staff to carry out their policy from 1951. My submission covers the separation of migrant mothers and babies under Commonwealth Government instructions in more detail.

This enabled all State public hospitals to carry out the separation of mother and baby from non migrant young mothers as well.

It is important to emphasize that not all mothers gave their consent to adoption in the public hospital immediately after birth. If the baby was born to a Catholic mother, the hospital did not take the consent – the baby was kept from the mother without any signed consent – and the mother drugged even upon discharge without her baby, **WITHOUT A SIGNED CONSENT.**

Many submissions from mothers will state that their consents were taken immediately after the birth but that is not the whole overall picture. It is a further serious indictment that natural mothers were discharged from hospital still drugged, without their baby, **WITH NO CONSENT SIGNED.** Mothers like myself, drugged, mentally tormented and discharged from hospital not knowing why my baby is not leaving with me and with no knowledge of where my daughter was - shattered and defenseless against these **MILITANT AUTHORITIES.** Just like the actions of the Commonwealth Government against migrant natural mothers – they too had no options available – the Commonwealth Government **telling these mothers that** their babies would be adopted. The Commonwealth Government giving clear **CONSENT** for these illegal actions to take place.

The dark forces of evil cruelly robbed our country, our Continent and the world of outstanding young women to be mothers. The Commonwealth Parliament must have a conscious of its democratic duty to uphold, protect and advance the human rights of the Australian people, united in one indissoluble Commonwealth.

As a citizen I must live by the Australian Constitution, Rule of Law and the Common Law of this country and Commonwealth politicians (Government) are elected to uphold Commonwealth law meaning they will prevail over federal legislation and, by operation of Section 109 of the Constitution, will override inconsistent state laws (whether past or future).

As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia I had and still do have an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution, Rule of Law and the Common Law of this country.

As an Australian citizen, the Commonwealth should have afforded me protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threaten my right to life, liberty and justice from those who denied me these rights, within and without, the borders of Australia

UNITED NATIONS STATUS OF UNMARRIED MOTHERS – LAW AND PRACTICE 1963

Under Commonwealth Constitution and Commonwealth Law in line with the United Nations Status of unmarried mothers had equal status as a married couple to their child and this United Nations endorsement was signed by the Commonwealth Government in 1963. The Commonwealth Government was participants in these discussions and endorsed the final report, clearly stating that unmarried mothers had equal status in Australia as a married couple to their child. The Inquiry needs to carefully examine this document and it is my belief, it is this document that clearly holds the Commonwealth Government responsible for their **role in the separation of mother and baby at birth.**

The Commonwealth Government of Australia representative stated:



“In Australia the law provides for a status to be enjoyed by unmarried mothers in law which constitutes a set of rights. A mother and a child’s relationship exist as a consequence of birth. The domicile of a baby born out of wedlock is the domicile of his mother – called his domicile origins”.

Reproduced with the permission Of Clip Art from the Old Time Company Collection - USA - Image 0504 dates back to the 1920s or earlier (www.oldtimeclipart.com)

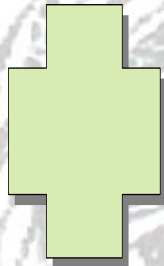
This cannot be any clearer and the Commonwealth Government was a signatory (party and participant) to this Law and Practice for Unmarried Mothers and their babies.

DECLARATION OF THE RIGHTS OF THE CHILD

It was adopted by the Geneva Assembly at the 14th session on 20 November 1959 Principle 1 of the Declaration. This principle gave babies born out of wedlock equal rights under the law to those born in a marriage.

DECLARATION OF HELSINKI

This is another important document in relation to the rights of natural mothers and their babies particularly in relation to the taking of consent.



Many people do not have the concept of truth

People are not present at the event, see and hear only the stories about the event.

*This is already an **interpretation** – it is also selective.*

The stories become more important than the event itself, which means lives are increasingly affected by appearances.

Many no longer pursue the truth but accept the stories as told and how others accept the stories.

It also means we produce stories for the sake of appearances. That means we no longer pursue the truth according to the benchmark of one's conscious but according to the impact one makes. (author unknown)

The above words are important for each member of the Senate Committee to digest as they are so relevant to the inquiry before them

Separation of natural mothers from their natural babies at birth

From the outset I point out that the legal process of adoption is a separate entity to the separation of a mother from her baby at birth. In order to reach the legal process of adoption it was necessary for babies to be **kidnapped and stolen from their natural mothers at birth.**

Medical staff and hospital management were responsible for 'duty of care' of all mothers and babies (unmarried or married) during their pregnancies which led to the 'intrusion' of the hospital's social worker and the implementation of hospital policies to illegally and unethically separate all migrant unmarried mothers and the separation of non migrant mothers and babies at birth.

The separation of mother and child has destroyed the self-image of many. Their self-worth, self value and survival will never be the same. We can recognise the things about ourselves that need to be healed then be willing to release those things, but the pain of the separation of mother and child can never be healed. This has been well documented since 1950's commenced 'forced adoptions'.

The Commonwealth Government is guilty of forced separations and adoptions and whilst all State public hospitals carried out these illegal and unethical instructions given by the Commonwealth Government, State Governments' followed on with the separation of non migrant unmarried mothers and their babies. . The Commonwealth Government breached the Constitution, Rule of Law and Common Law.

This is clear evidence of the instructions given to all State Public Hospitals' management, administration, medical staff etc. by the Commonwealth Government in line with their migration policies.

BABIES BORN TO YOUNG GIRLS WHO MIGRATED TO AUSTRALIA.

If a young girl arrived pregnant into Australia under the Immigration Act, immediately upon birth the baby was removed from the young mother as part of the Commonwealth Government's migration scheme. The Commonwealth Government believed that the baby was not part of the immigration agreement and in many cases the girl was sent back to their country of origins and their baby was adopted in Australia. These young mothers also had no say in their baby's welfare. They were punished and separated from their own parents.

Young Migrants brought to Australia

After the 2nd World war, many migrants were brought to Australia to help the slogan "Popular or Perish". **International Social Services** existed and housed at 62 Victoria Parade, Melbourne.

Young unmarried migrant women (mainly Italians) also came to our country **on a temporary visa** and after giving birth to their babies, returned to their own country leaving their babies behind in Australia **for adoption**. In a letter dated 22nd October 1962 **from Miss M.H. Kelso, Director, International Social Service Australian Branch to Mr. K.J. Smith, Commonwealth Migration Officer, Department of Immigration** concerns were raised regarding this issue. **Miss Kelso advised:**

"that after the child has been born, grave social and legal complications made themselves felt, so that the child's future and the mother's peace of mind are endangered".

Some of the complications were

LEGAL Aspects

- Migration and foreigner status

- Parental rights, guardianship etc.
- Local adoption
- If the mother is a minor

SOCIAL Aspects

- Availability of adoption services and possibilities for placement of foreign children.

Psychological and medical aspects

- Parental
- Confinement
- Post natal

A confidential report was compiled by the International Social Services on these aspects. Discussions on the formalities associated with the child's rights to residence in Australia were an issue. Adoptions did increase considerably throughout the 1960's. How many of them were children **born to migrant unmarried mothers who were in Australia on a temporary visa?**

Today we are forced to believe that there were no studies carried out on the psychological and medical aspects of adoption. How wrong is today's information when in **1962 psychological and medical aspects of adoption were addressed?** Miss Kelso's letter also stated

“without sufficient information concerning the specific problems which might be encountered, it is hard for the social worker concerned to give a desirable quality of service to the unmarried mother.”

One of the other important factors in regards to an unmarried mother, who migrated to Australia with the possibility of permanent via, after the birth of her baby, largely lay in the hands of her sponsor.

“The degree of relationship, if any, between the sponsor and nominee could have an important bearing on the decision. This procedure would apply whether she were an applicant under assisted or unassisted arrangements”.

On **25 January 1965** a letter signed by P.R. Heydon, Secretary, Immigration Department to Chief Migration Officer London states:

“although the circumstances of this case are appreciated we feel that as a general rule the assisted passages to unmarried expectant mothers should not be approved even though they may be accompanying by their parents.

“Cases of this nature could give rise to serious assimilation problems, particularly where hostel accommodation is being utilised and unless there

are special features involved assistance should be refused in any such case coming to your notice.”

To protect the privacy of these persons mentioned in this letter, they were later given assistance to migrate to Australia **providing that the expected baby was placed for adoption at birth. ANOTHER DESPICABLE ACT BY THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IN 1965 in the forced adoptions in Australia.**

In “Sex and Sufferings” page 274 (History of the Royal Women’s Hospital) confirms:

“the plight of migrant single mothers was made all the more acute by their isolation and the harsh moral standards of their communities.”

“most of them were having their babies adopted, and that was very traumatic”.

These comments were stated by Liliana Ferrara employed at the Royal Women’s Hospital to assist migrant women.

In order to be able to commence a new life, these unmarried mothers were forced to give up their motherhood in exchange for new freedom, new life, in a new country”.

Note: There is no way that any member of the Senate Inquiry can accept the above Commonwealth Government actions in separating mother and baby at birth nor can they accept the following:

Greek unmarried mothers – when migrants came to Australia they also brought with them their own culture and their daughters were not allowed to date without a father’s permission and were mostly slaves within their own environment. Many migrant young women were impregnated in many cases by a relative. These babies had to be adopted as they were not acceptable to fit into their own cultural environment.

High moral standards of these migrant families were portrayed even whilst they were acute isolation from those that lived in Melbourne.

*“I had a couple of cases where I suspect it was incest, but the girls were so frightened. But mainly it was Greek girls because they would come in shiploads, not married by proxy like the Italians, and you’d find a lot of young Greek boys waiting for them. “Oh we’ve got a room” and promise to marry them. Some were promised from Greece, but once they’d seen each other they would not like them and would take advantage of them. Most of them were having their babies **adopted** and that was very traumatic.” (Liliana Ferrara - Sex and Sufferings Women’s Health and Women’s Hospital Janet McCalman Page 274).*

Liliana goes on to explain

“that many of these migrant girls begged to see their baby but the reply was “No, you’re not allowed to see it if you leave it for adoption”.

This comment confirms hospital practices and policies – the separation of mother and baby at birth – a crime.

“The Women’s Hospital method relied on denial. If a single mother had decided on adoption then she would get over losing her baby more quickly if the baby did not exist. Allowing the fetus to become her baby even for just a few minutes, would only make it harder for her to put the experience and her moral lapse behind her. While many nurses and doctors may have had private misgivings that were the way it should be done.” (Sex and Sufferings Women’s Health and Women’s Hospital Janet McCalman Page 274).

Natural mothers were tortured during childbirth (arms tied down with shackles etc. Note –the memories are still too vivid – sorry) and it continued immediately after the birth. During childbirth mothers were preached at

“that it was in the best interest of your child waiting to be born – to be adopted.”

I was wheeled out from the labor ward into the hospital corridor and left there for hours – frightened calling for my baby – no idea where I was or what had been done to me – doctors walking passed me and ignoring me – my body paralysed to an extent as I was unable to even lift myself up on the trolley. When finally someone came to get me the trolley was wheeled into a ward – no words spoken to me – the torture continued and it was not until my dad arrived later that day with my Aunty, that someone listened to me – my dad and fiancée. When I became hysterical – a nurse came towards me – another injection – it was a nightmare – which I would not wish on my worst enemy.

Some of the doctors I believed in, had been friendly during my pre natal time but as I lay on the trolley – they walked passed DEAF AS I CRIED FOR HELP – all part of the crimes. Looking back I had never been ‘given lessons on how to breast feed’ and other important matters as I prepared for motherhood. HOW NAÏVE WAS I. At home I had new baby clothes etc as I prepared for my daughter’s birth.

1991.

IMPACT OF GRIEF TO BIRTHMOTHERS.

Lavonne. H. Shiffler. 1991.

Shiffler quotes Butterfield and Scaturo (1989), therapists who specialize in child bearing loss and who recognize a pattern of stages in birthmothers grieving process: denial, shock, disbelief, and numbing: guilt: anger: yearning: longing and searching: depression, disorganization, despair and integration. They (Butterfield) emphasize that this is an ongoing nonlinear process.



Butterfield continues, a birthmother does not just grieve for a few months and it's over. She may not feel her grief initially, but will find it surfacing later in her life cycle (i.e. at a reunion or the birth of a grandchild). She may not start grieving until as many as forty years later, in a support group, where she is free to talk, to open the closet and take out the grief piece by piece

It is incomprehensible to think that such human beings existed and were let loose in the Public Hospital system causing nothing but havoc along the paths they walked – or maybe they were especially chosen for the job at hand.

Doctors allowed teenage mothers to continue with a long labor sometimes from 36 to 40 hours as a further punishment.

Dr. Kevin Mc. Caul stated:

“even the good obstetricians took a delight in saying “I had a woman in labor for 3 days and the baby is alright. But you knew bloody well that the baby wasn’t all right. It would have been much better if it had been delivered on Monday. The mathematics of this were extraordinarily simple – but no, they took sheer delight in saying “we didn’t interfere”. (Sex and Sufferings Women’s Health and Women’s Hospital Pages Janet McCalman 275 and 276).

These doctors were monsters and this remark should be taken to task. It certainly gives the reader a further clear understanding of the inhumane actions against unmarried mothers by doctors. How many babies died that unmarried mothers tried to give birth to? The full inconceivable repercussions of such actions are unconscionable.

Questions must be raised at this point, again

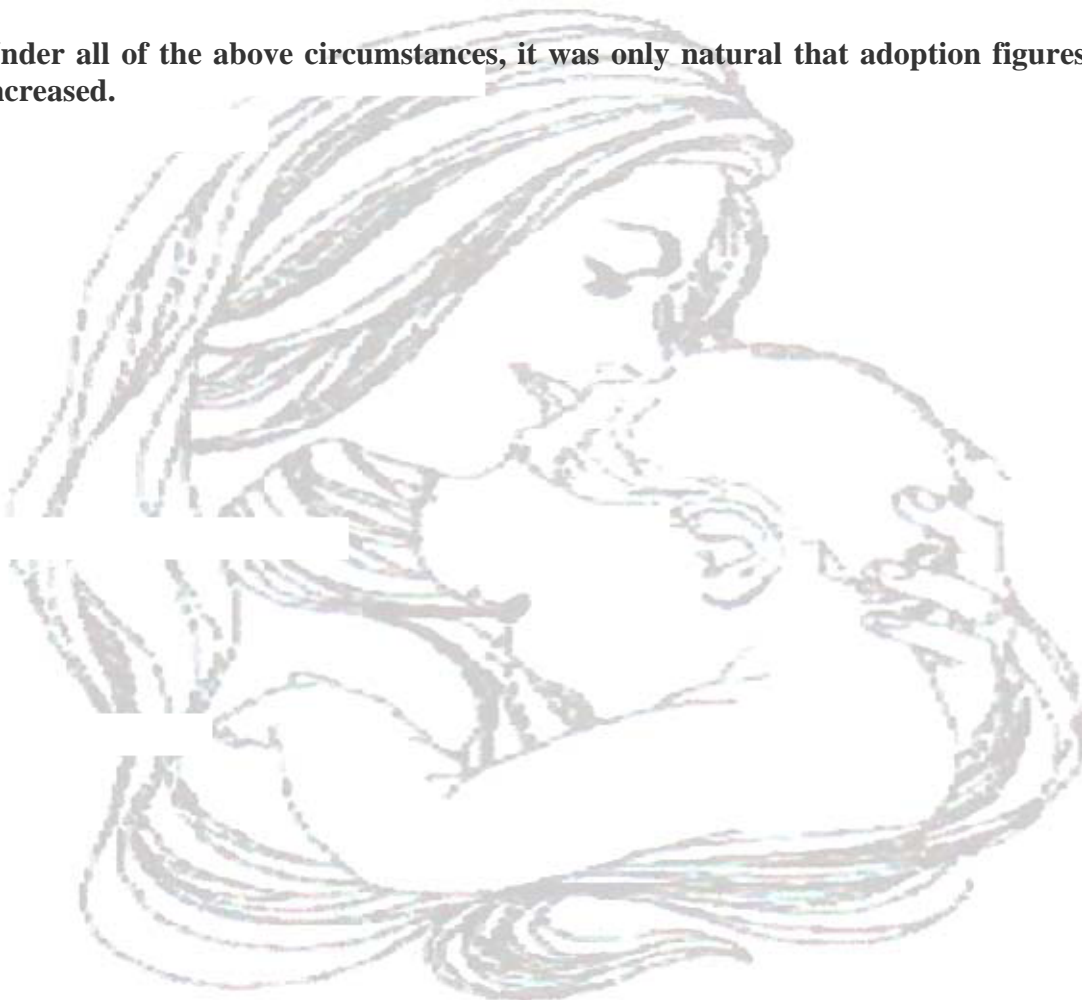
“Why did these authorities keep the baby from its mother?”

“When was the decision made to keep the baby from its mother”?

It is illegal for any adoption decision to be made before the birth!! Young unmarried migrant mothers were not able to make a decision but the **Commonwealth Government made the decision for them PRIOR TO THE BIRTH.** Such actions are illegal, unlawful and immoral.

Such actions in our legal system are known as “coercion and duress”. Even if the girls’ parents agreed with the hospital authorities prior to the birth of the baby, the hospital authorities still broke the law because once the baby was born, the mother had legal guardianship of her baby. The source of that coercion and duress can never be defined because the law does not define any person exempt from the law who brings about coercion and duress on another. Even a girl’s parents were not exempt under the law.

Under all of the above circumstances, it was only natural that adoption figures increased.



Migration Camps – Bonagilla

Further evidence of the Commonwealth Government's

Role against unmarried mothers

The Australian Government developed a scheme allowing Widows with dependent children to migrate to Australia. When placed in migration camps there were no crèche facilities for these women to place their children, whilst they worked in local factories. They arrived in Australia unable to speak English. Classes were held in the camps for women to learn how to speak English, how one runs a home in Australia, how to dress and feed their children, the Australian way; home dressmaking, keep-fit classes and talks on social do's and don'ts.

These women were placed under tremendous duress. Many suffering anxiety, fear, unhappiness and even undue effort.

In one particular Immigration Holding Centre there were 115 Single and Divorced women (76 widows, 15 divorced and 24 unmarried mothers).

An inexperienced woman commenced at the factory on 6 pounds 15 shillings and sixpence with a five shillings rise every quarter, until seven pounds fifteen shillings and six pence is reached. A further cost of living adjustment in the following six months was added to this amount. **(these monies were paid by the Australian Government under the Welfare Act).**

We are referring to 1951. It was the responsibility of the Australian Government Employment Department to assist these women to obtain employment. The question arises: how come the Australian Government Employment Department did not assist non migrant unmarried mothers in obtaining employment immediately following their pregnancy? By raising the question I am in no way undermining the conditions suffered by migrant mothers. A further breach of the Commonwealth Government's responsibilities.

The answer is that the Australian Government Employment Department would have assisted unmarried mothers in obtaining employment immediately following their pregnancy regardless of what state their domicile address was. Unmarried mothers were never offered this service – another service kept from them.

These women were not allowed to be employed under arrangements were made and approved by the Director, for the care of their children under three. The Apex and Rotary Clubs assisted with the assimilation of these women into society.

In short spaces of time, **marriages were arranged for many widows and unmarried mothers.** Yes arranged by the Commonwealth Government. The

Director's policy of the Immigration Holding Centre was at all times, one which accords respect and prestige to the family.

Note: "The greatest insult to ethical and moral values and principles is not doing anything" (Simon Longstaff, Executive Director of St. James Ethics, NSW – 30 November 2010)

In order to obtain employment and take care of their children, **many mothers had to surrender some or all of their children into institutions thus freeing her up to fulfill her contract to the Commonwealth Government.**

YES YOU HAVE NOT MISREAD THE ABOVE – surrender some or all of their children and I repeat by the Commonwealth Government.

"It is realised the bad effect that this splitting has on the family, especially the child that is separated from his mother."

(Annual Report 1950-1951 Australian Immigration Department)

Note: I am not sure how readers feel after reading the above, but for the writer it is distressing. The authorities even realised in 1950-51 **"the bad effect that separation of mother and child had BUT THEY STILL DID IT.**

The Commonwealth Government **forced** these separation requesting that their contract be fulfilled regardless of the cost i.e. **separation of mother and child.**

One mother had to place her four children in institutions and because of their ages meant the children had to be placed in different institutions which further disrupted the family life. The ages of the children were 13, 12, 6, and 5. **The Australia Government had no regard for family life separating these children not only from their mother but from each other.** Does it all sound familiar? I think so.

The devastation continues:

*Several unmarried mothers lost their children **through adoption** from St. Joseph's Home because no employer was willing to take a child under 3 years of age. Another case was a young unmarried mother who spoke excellent English and being able to type was offered a job at the Immigration Holding Centre, **provided that she was able to place her baby in a local orphanage.** The policy of the **Australian Government Holding Centre** itself was not to employ unmarried mothers or widows with a child or children.*

FORCED ADOPTIONS BY THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT – a disgusting state of affairs.

Further heartbreaking facts are as follows:

"The most difficult cases with which to deal are those with 3 children or more and those widows who are fit for

limited employment only following Tuberculosis. These latter cannot be employed as domestics, as they are not allowed by law to work where they will be assisting in the preparation of food. As the employment services receive

allocations for Domestic only, the employment of these women presents a real problem. This has been partly solved by the placement of the children in institutions.” (Social Worker Gary

Rice’s Report 1951 to the Australian Government)

*“There is also a number of women who become pregnant either immediately prior to their embarkation to Australia, soon after their arrival in Australia or after they are sent to employment and whom already have one child. These children and mothers are accommodated in Holding Centers, and are a further extension of the problem not covered. In most cases the father of the child is in the same state and can be sued for maintenance for the second child. In preliminary discussions of the situations, before transfer to a Holding Centre, although the woman may realise that she will find it very difficult to find employment with two children, very few are willing to even consider having the children **adopted**”.*

Please pause and read the above again.

Let’s continue

After these mother and children are placed in the Holding Centre pressure is placed on them. (Undue influence and duress). They have a contract to fulfill and they have no other choice but to accept the temporarily help to become established themselves in Australia. The **temporary help** is to place their children in institutions with the words

“so that you can have the means to start searching for something more permanent for your family”.

Note: Commonwealth Government showing no regard for motherhood with the only solution – **separation of mother and child/ren even though the authorities realised the effect such a separation would have.**

“Pregnancy – as these have all been unmarried girls or widows there are a number of factors to be considered in discussing post confinement plans with them”.

Five mothers were placed in institutions such as Alexandra Home, Maternity Hospital at St. Joseph’s and Hillcrest Salvation Army Home. Two mothers remained with their parents. **Two babies were adopted and two babies died.** Two mothers were placed in employment and the remaining mother awaited transfer to Eastern States to rejoin her fiancée.

The system was well entrenched by the Commonwealth Government.

Mr. R. Vincent’s memo to the Commonwealth Migration Office dated 27 July 1951 contains very disturbing contents. The purpose of his visit to the Holding Centres was to review the situation of widows and unmarried mothers with children.

A Mr. R. Harris of Labor and National Service was present to allocate the women to employment.

Note: It appears very militant procedures were put into place. How frightening must this have been for these mothers? After reading many papers on the Concentration Camps in this country during both World Wars the militant procedures were very similar. It reminds me of how frightening it was not only for me, but also for all other unmarried mother when they arrived at the hospital for medical care prior to our confinements.

“A draft of questions was made to make sure the women interviews had all points put to them. An interpreter was used to be certain that all statements were clear. The Centre Director was interviewed briefly concerning results of implications”.

Note: How it all sounds the same treatment unmarried mothers received all over Australia during the 1950-early 1970 period.

The report explains that thirty women were interviewed, and in all except about 3 cases were recorded as unemployable. The main reason was

“Most of them desired to retain their children and not put them in institutions and it meant that no employment which offered accommodation was available to them with more than one child.

*In view of this it was necessary to consider the advisability of the women remaining in the Centre for a prolonged period and also to consider other alternatives such as **adoption or wards of the State.**”*

What mental torture but it certainly sounds familiar? The system well entrenched in the country by the Commonwealth Government who today must take full responsibility for ‘forced adoptions’.

Alternatives considered:

“The children to be taken over as wards of the State or Commonwealth and put into institutions, the necessary fees to be paid by the State or Commonwealth.

“Widows wages to be supplemented to enable them to meet commitments if children were placed in institutions.

“It is considered it would be better for the children to be wards of the State as that would offer permanency for them. In Instances where children have been placed in Institutions by the mothers, they have seldom been left there for any length of time, and a statement from the Catholic Migration Committee indicates that the widows have not met their commitments. If the children were taken, there would still be the difficulty of placing the mothers in employment. Their lack of English and general attitude

would not be altered by the taking of their children and resentments may be built up. It is suggested however, that where the mothers are not responding to encouragement some step should be taken for the children's sakes to make them wards of the State."

Note: The above words from Mr. Vincent's report is devastating evidence and attitude. The pressure placed on these mothers was appalling and we must remember that if a mother did not pay the fees to the institution (slipped behind in payments) the children were then placed **for adoption**. This fact was one of the main changes brought about in the **1958 Adoption of Children's Act**.

Note: These mothers and children were destitute and the Commonwealth Government's solution was **separation of mother and child/ren**. **How heroic is that action by past Australian Politicians that called themselves the Australian Government – breaking the Commonwealth Constitution, Declaration of Human Rights and so much more.**

These young mothers lost their babies so they could fulfill their employment contract with the Commonwealth Government in order that they could have a life of freedom within our nation.

IT ALL SOUNDS TOO FAMILIAR. NO WONDER THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT DID NOT INTERFERE WITH STATE GOVERNMENTS WHEN THEY SEPARATED MOTHER AND BABY AT BIRTH? Individual States were only following the examples set by the Commonwealth Government in the same militant way.

There were no crèche facilities for women to leave their children and many had no other option but to surrender their children. Again how familiar are those actions?

These women who came to Australia were under Contract to the Commonwealth Government and the Commonwealth Employment Services were responsible for them and they were not permitted to take employment unless it was approved by the Regional Director of the Camp.

Note: these highlights again the Commonwealth Government's no respect for motherhood.

In a Social Worker's Report written (1951) by Miss King she states

"The fact that many have remarried should in itself justify the scheme. However on the point of the actual success or not of the remarriages, it should be noted that it is too soon to say whether these marriages will last, and whether a fair proportion of them will settle into the community."

In 1951 Migrant Widows and Unmarried Mothers were eligible for:

- Unemployment 30/- per week
- Where not eligible for unemployment benefits i.e. they have never worked or reported for work, they are in receipt of Special benefits.

Let's just reflect on the above. "Where not eligible for Unemployment Benefits etc" highlights that **all unmarried mothers (including myself)** were eligible for these benefits as other research material proves. Most unmarried mothers (like me) had work prior to their confinement therefore after the birth of their baby would have been eligible for unemployment benefits.

Unmarried mothers at the Immigration Holding Centres had the establishment of the Metropolitan Maternity Hospital Booking Bureau established to ease the anxiety and difficult for expectant mothers.

"The unmarried mother not wishing to return to a Centre, can almost always be satisfactorily placed in a waiting patients' home where she may work as long as possible before the birth – an arrangement better in every respect than the lost of independence involved in return to a Centre."

Mrs. Dickson was a Social Worker employed by the Commonwealth Government to review facilities at these Holding Centres and in R. Vincent, Social Worker's Report dated 27 July 1951 her report is quoted

"Many widows call to ask the Social Worker to place their children in Institutions to enable them to work."

That is appalling circumstances for our nation. The majority of these children under the age of 3 years.

The report further states that *"many women did not wish to be parted from their children."*

When preparing this submission and including the above words, it angers me to think that the Commonwealth Government betrayed migrant mothers and their children with emotional blackmail and disgraceful inhumane treatment and then allowed the scheme to flow through into each State directed at **non-migrant unmarried mothers and their child/ren.**

The Commonwealth Government must accept total responsibilities for the separation of unmarried mothers and their babies and for forced adoptions that became part of the Commonwealth Government's actions through the 1950-1970's flowing down to individual States.

I conclude this part of my submission with the following on Commonwealth Government Immigration Files (National Archives of Australia) 1951:

"Every denomination has its own maternity home and will receive unmarried expectant mothers to them at the 7th and 8th month of pregnancy. She remains there until her baby is due to be born and returns from the Hospital to remain

*for three months, feeding her baby in the meantime. If then she decides to keep her child she is referred to the Children's Welfare Department to place the child under the **Infant's Life Protection** scheme which she pays 10/- per week plus child endowment of 5/- for its upkeep. This gives the girl some responsibility and will not create a dependent helpless spirit so often found in these unmarried mothers in our Holding Centres and will certainly free the Department of the responsibility of maintenance for long periods."*

All files containing the above documents are obtainable through the National Archives of Australia for authentication. I discovered these heart breaking documents and others 10 years ago in the NAA during my research into the separation of unmarried mothers and their babies. The same punishment and treatment was given to married migrant mothers and children whose husbands deserted them in Australia – husbands running away from Migrant Camps for the betterment of their own life's and not their families.

These unmarried, married and widow mothers were punished by the **COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT the same as Australian born unmarried mothers**. Punishment that has created such grief, suffering and pain. The greatest punishment you can receive is to be separated from your family and the punishment inflicted on natural mothers in the 1950-1970 eras was the severest punishment of all.

BABIES BORN TO YOUNG JAPANESE GIRLS DURING WAR TIME

The Commonwealth Government entered into an agreement with the Japanese Government after WWII allowing babies fathered by Australian service persons, to be brought to Australia adopted and reared by the natural father. This is in total contradiction to the procedures within Australia – a natural father was denied his human rights when his baby was born to an unmarried mother even though in many cases fathers appealed as far as the High Court (Commonwealth Government) requesting that the baby be given to him and his family as his consent for adoption had never been given.

So the Commonwealth Government believed it was OK to bring babies into Australia born to unmarried Japanese mothers, but did not stand up for Australian fathers who fathered a baby with an unmarried **Australian** girl. This is certainly double standards set by the Commonwealth Government.

This is further evidence of the separation of mother and baby with the consent of the Commonwealth Government. What about the grief, pain and suffering of the Japanese unmarried mother with no consideration of the child being removed from their cultural heritage and relatives.

Files entitled:

- Welfare of Japanese children born of Australian servicemen in Japan (approx. 8 files)
- Japanese children policy part 3
- **Adoption of illegitimate Japanese** children by members of the AMF
- Relations with Australian children born of Australian fathers and Japanese women
- **Admission of children** of Australian Fathers and Japanese mothers
- Education of children of service members in Japanese schools – requirements, facilities etc.
- Welfare of Japanese children born of Australian Servicemen in Japan
- Anti-Japanese Propaganda leaflets – distribution among school children in Sydney and suburbs
- Japanese and Chinese children (under 3 years) extensions of Commonwealth EDT
- Relations with Australia – Children born of Australian Forces and Japanese Women
- Japanese children born of Australian servicemen – **Immigration to Australia**
- Department of Interior Canberra – Particulars of children of Japanese merchants attending State School in Victoria
- Parliamentary question – Japanese children born of Australian servicemen in Japan

No where in any adoption statistics are recorded the adoptions of Japanese children born to Australian servicemen who immigrated to Australia. The Commonwealth Government referring to Japanese women and not Japanese mothers.

Other files exist on the immigration of Japanese wives and children of Australian servicemen.

Correspondence is also held at the National Archives of Australia clearly outlining the approaches to Commonwealth Government to accept newly born babies from other countries in the 1950-1960's from the World Organisation of Welfare to assist with the high infertile rate amongst Australians.

The Commonwealth Government certainly played a major role in forced adoptions and the above cases of separation cannot and must not be ignored by the Senate Committee.

PLURAL AND NOT THE SINGULAR

Throughout my submission in the majority of incidences I highlight the *'plural' and not the "singular"* when writing about natural mothers as the impact of the grief and pain that opens up within me when writing the 'singular' is too painful for me to deal with as it takes me back into the labor ward where the most traumatic event of my life was inflicted upon me. The traumatic event is so real – too real – to write about.



We must use this occasion as a metaphor for all that is bitter in Australian history that relates to forced adoptions. Australia was formed under political institutions – the governing bodies of law and order. Governments' responsibilities were to guarantee freedom of conscience and freedom of speech and freedom of person. Governments broke their responsibilities towards natural mothers - refuted their freedom of speech and freedom of person. These fundamental rights are what the Commonwealth Constitution was built on.

Whilst the majority of natural mothers moved on with their life's in secrecy (many were unable to do so and committed suicide) they have never been freed from the life sentence placed on them.

No person can be free until there is a reversal of that punishment and released from the prison you are trapped in and only those including the Commonwealth Government can unlock the door by issuing a PARDON and issuing a statement

“We believe you.”

The three most powerful words the Commonwealth Government and State Governments can utter. A dastardly accusation if it is not true – dishonorable, shameful, immoral and reprehensible.

Accusation

Having a child out of wedlock was like committing suicide for most women who found themselves in that terrible situation in this day and age. An enormous stigma was attached to illegitimacy and unless a woman was protected by the man involved she was doomed. This was the attitude in the Edwardian era which was more relaxed than in Queen Victoria's time, the stigma remained despite fun loving antics of the aristocracy and the licentiousness which was prevalent beneath that carefree, glittering façade there remained prudery, snobbery, discrimination and class distinction.

These are the words of a famous writer in the 1920 era. What is interesting that during this period of time and in the 1800's girls were legally able to marry at 12 and fathers at 15 years of age.

Rule of Law

Clause 5 of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitutional Act also covers **Rule of Law. The aspect of the Rule of Law ensures the Government has its power limited. Government decisions must be lawful as the Rule of Law operates to protect Society from Commonwealth and State Governments' illegitimate actions.**

Rule of Law sustains much more than constitutionalism. (*Allan Hutchinson and Patrick Monahan "The Rule of Law Ideal or Ideology 1st edition 1987*). It is rare and protean principle of our politicians' tradition. It comprises the values of regularity and restraint and under the Commonwealth Constitution it seeks to provide a stable and secure basis for the exercise of Government power and also seeks to limit that power.

The importance of the Rule of Law as a Constitutionalist promise must not be underestimated.

Natural mothers and their babies were denied the Rule of Law thus responsibility also lies with the Commonwealth Government.

Common Law must not be confused with Rule of Law. Common Law is judge made law and judge developed law. Under Constitutional Law (Rule of Law) mothers human rights were violated and abused.

Baby's Rights

Our babies were forcibly removed from their mothers and given new identities, new homes, new families and denied their heritage. They were deprived of the opportunity for nurture and care opportunities for growth and development in their natural family setting. It does not stop there – future generations are also denied their heritage and rights. Grandchildren (future generations) born, resembling the natural parent/s – their rights also violated. So the generations grow – more and more denied of their natural rights. A natural mother denied 'natures' inheritance of loving, caring and sharing their child's life successes and failures. It is believed that prior to the 1965 Adoption Act in Victoria staff and agencies acted in line with faith and **not constitutional law.**

Medical staff displayed professional negligence by not placing the baby into the mother's arms. **Mothers cried out for their babies and babies were defenseless and defendless to respond to her cries. Mothers were also defenseless and defendless to react to her baby's cries.**

“Infants relinquished for adoption are vulnerable in terms of their

future development. Removed from the birth parent is a traumatic experience for the child which may lead to emotional or behavioral

Difficulties in later life. (Regulatory Impact Statement Adoption Relations 1987 page 8 Victorian Government)

Under Adoption Acts including the 1964 (Victoria) in the eyes of the law all children whether born in or out of wedlock had the same status.

This was an update to the **United Nations Declaration of Unmarried Mothers Status** that had been established by the United Nations with the Commonwealth Government's signature – several years earlier. The Commonwealth Government allowed the Rule of Law and their Constitutional responsibilities to be breached. The need for domination over another considered smaller or weaker seemed to be part of the 'broken laws' that the Commonwealth Government (the ultimate power of our country) allowed to happen.

“The baby usually went from the labor ward to the nursery and was bottle fed and then examined by a pediatrician. The pediatrician had before him a record of the mother's confinement, a note on the baby's progress so far and the Adoption history supplied by the social worker. (Pamela Roberts, Social Worker in Charge Women's Hospital NSW Australian Journal Social Worker February 1967).

In 1967 they are admitting their criminal actions. This statement proves there were social workers notes about the adoption that were written prior to the birth. This is criminal. At no time could a mother give consent until 5/7 days after the birth so the above statement is perfect evidence of the crimes committed against natural mothers. Several times during my pregnancy Mrs. Patricia Cox, Almoner approached me to discuss the adoption of my baby. During these approaches she was informed in no uncertain terms my baby was not available for adoption. When I finally met my daughter some 30+ years later her first question “*did you want to give me up for adoption*”? My ANSWER

NEVER NEVER NEVER

“Attitude to the unmarried mother has changed during the war years. For them Sickness Benefit payments have been of great assistance in the weeks of incapacity prior to their admission and the special Benefits to those girls who kept their babies.” (Miss P Jackson, Acting Almoner Queen Victoria Hospital 1946 Annual Report Queen Victoria Hospital page 13)

What needs to be highlighted here is that (...) was the Almoner at the (...) during the period under investigation. She married and her name was (...) She knew about the monies available to unmarried mothers yet played a major role in the separation of mother and baby at birth in the 1950-early 1970 period denying them of financial assistance. When she made the several approaches to me during my pregnancy at no time did she offer me alternatives or assistance even though my intentions were clearly spoken. ***MY BABY IS OURS.***

Foster care was an alternative supposed to be offered to natural mothers for her baby until her circumstances changed. This was never offered to me yet my grandmother had offered to take care of my baby until my fiancée and I were married.

The Adoption of Children's Act state that

“counseling, financial information and alternative child arrangements must be offered to the natural mother, prior to her consent being taken for a pending adoption.”

This was the law that governed our land under the Commonwealth Constitution – the financial assistance was Commonwealth Government funds – therefore the Commonwealth Government must be held responsible for **natural mothers being denied financial assistance**. **The above clearly outlines the injustices.**

Who was responsible for stealing my baby from the hospital?

After the birth of my daughter I was denied access to her, my father and aunty were also denied access to her at the hospital, as well as a family friend denied access.

When a family friend visited she went to the nurses and tried desperately to bring my baby to my arms but she was informed by the nurse in charge of the nursery at (...)

“that she was under instructions not to let me see my baby or allow me access but to give me a message that my daughter was the princess of the nursery.”

(...) was Almoner when my daughter was **cleared** for adoption (there still was no consent signed) and she had been told on numerous occasions that my baby was not available for adoption. When the time came for me to be discharged from the hospital, a young doctor sat on my bed and said

“that he was truly sorry that he was unable to help me to get my baby, but he was acting on hospital policy and he needed to protect his position at the hospital”. He also said to me “you can get on with your life, forget your baby as you will be able to have more children in the future”.

His face imprinted in my brain.

(...) would contact me and tell me that there was a baby of my religion waiting to be picked up for adoption. I would then grab a taxi, travel to the hospital, pick up the baby and take it to the Nuns at the

Broadmeadows Babies Home. (...) former Social Worker, Catholic Family Welfare Bureau during a 4 hour interview with her in 1995 during my research).

During our discussions she confirmed that it was her belief that (...) had obtained the consent from me and that the CFWB did not counsel mothers as they were acting on behalf of prospective adoptive parents. **These actions are 'baby farming, kidnapping and/or stealing a child under the Crimes Act.** Miss (...) admitted that she had failed my daughter and me and offered her apology. During a meeting in 1996 with the Chief Executive Officer of the CFWB he extended his apology to me for the role that the Bureau had played in the loss of my daughter. He advised that the Bureau had got it wrong in the 1950-1960 eras with their treatment of natural mothers and their babies.

He was co-operative giving me non identifying information about my daughter i.e. who the guardian ad litem was, the date of my daughter's adoption and that she had been adopted by a loving and caring family. He confirmed his apology and the non identifying information in a letter.

THE RIGHTS OF NATURAL MOTHER IN HOSPITAL WHO HAS RELINQUISHED OR IS CONSIDERING RELINQUISHING HER CHILD FOR ADOPTION (title of document)

Regardless of age, rights applied to all unmarried mothers whether they were living independently of, or dependant upon their parents. The following is from an article following (Victorian Conference of Adoption Agencies when subcommittee of Helen Campbell and Sister Kathleen was formed to prepare a draft on the above subject).

Legal rights of the mother are fairly clear cut but the moral rights of both natural parents i.e. what we feel they should have if they are to be treated fairly.

Have the same rights with any other woman to adequate medical care, ante-natal and post-natal, from the doctor and/or hospital of their choice.

Have the right of access to counseling services ante-natally and post-natally. Staff in hospitals and agencies have the responsibility to ensure that the single mother's right to sufficient counseling on her own prevails even against the wishes of close relatives, putative father and significant others.

Have the right to full information about services available to them and benefits for which they are eligible, and so are given every assistance in obtaining them.

They should receive the same courtesy and acceptance from all members of staff that is the right of other patients/clients.

Following the Birth of Baby – as the law stands, the mother has sole guardianship of her child and therefore has the same rights and duties relating to that child as have married parents.

Note: A mother has sole guardianship – the hospital staff hide her baby – will not allow her access to her baby – THAT IS KIDNAPPING.

The right to make decisions about the child's future providing the proposed plan is within the law and regardless of the influence/opinions of close relatives or significant others, including paternal relatives, social workers, hospital staff, doctors etc.

The right to see her child and to determine who else shall have access to the child apart from herself concomitant choose not to see or nurse her child, if she is considering adoption.

As this whole area is usually included in the counseling sessions with the social worker who is aware of the patient's total situation, it may be wise for doctors or nurses to consult with the social worker before 'advising' the patient in this area.

Note: *Under law the mother has guardianship of her baby, but in the event of the mother's death guardianship is transferred to the father not to the mother's family or any other person.*

If the mother (and father) agrees to an adoption, the mother still has guardianship of her baby until the Court endorses an adoption application.

MEDICAL CHILD ABUSE

Mother – *was subjected to medical abuse during her visits to the hospital for regular checkups. She was used as an experiment for student doctors – examined as a product for learning with out permission. I was terrified as I laid there during each appointment being probed and sexually abused (yes sexually abused). Unmarried mothers were sexually abused by a 'gang' of student doctors with the permission of the senior officer – too frightened to say – leave me alone – too frightened to scream at the sexual abuse being inflicted. I will not go into the details of the sexual abuse as it would make my submission "R" rated. Unnecessary medical procedures performed.*

Baby - *Depriving the baby of warmth by removal from the mother.
Depriving the baby of food by removal from the mother.*

Depriving the baby of the security of a familiar environment by removal from the mother.

Subjecting the baby to an unsettling environment in the nursery.

Being abandoned and all alone in the nursery until a doctor declares the baby “fit for adoption”.

Transferring the baby to a further environment outside the hospital which is run under institutional conditions.

Distress crying for their mother.

During the first 1-2 hours after birth crying occurs during separation from the mother and stops on reunion. We examined this early crying by sound spectrograph in 29 healthy, full term delivered babies, randomly assigned either to be kept in a cot or to be placed in body contact with the mother during the 90 minute following birth. The former babies cried almost 10 times more than the latter ones. The duration of the cry signal (the smallest element of a cry analysed by spectrograph) in both groups was 0.8-0.9s; the melody contour was flat or slightly rising – falling with a fundamental frequency of around 500 hertz. The cry is provisionally characterized as a discomfort cry, elicited mainly by separation from the mother. (Crying in separated and non separated newborns: sound spectrographic analysis – Michelsson K, Christensson K, Rothganger H, Winberg J. Children’s Hospital, University of Helsinki Finland 1970)

Note: Even though I have read this on many other occasions during my research, it is still distressing to read it again – my baby both of us crying for each other immediately after my daughter was born – having protected her for 9 months during gestation – and drugged and held in shackles, pillows over face so I could not see or get to her before they took her out of the labor ward – the only time I had to get my baby back from these nurses, doctors and hospital staff.

Where were the Child Protection Workers in the 1950/1970 for our children and us (known as a child under the law)?

BABY FARMING

The Hon Arthur Rylah introduced the Bill to the Victorian Government for 1964 Adoption of Children’s Act stated:

“The Bill seeks to discourage what has come to be known as ‘baby farming’ by providing heavy penalties.”

The Victorian Government and the Commonwealth Government knew about the ‘baby farming’ activities (which included my daughter) and for the Hon. Arthur Rylah to make the above statement in Victorian Parliament, is **strong evidence of what was happening – ‘my daughter was part of the baby farming scheme’**.

I hold the Commonwealth and Victorian Governments responsible for the loss of my daughter as well as the grief, pain and suffering I have endured throughout my life and also for the grief, pain and suffering that my father had inflicted upon him leading to his death months later. My father never got over the loss of his first grand daughter. **A natural mother never gets over the loss of her baby.**

“There should be more human understanding of unwed mothers and their child and we should provide them with real help. Foster care would be beyond the financial resources of the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau”. (Father Eric Perkins, Director of CFWB – Advocate 13 June 1968).

“The Judge endorsed the Adoption Order (in camera) after viewing the documents before him”. (Adoption of Children’s Act 1958-6192)

“The Court before making an Adoption Order shall be satisfied that every person whose consent is necessary under this Act and whose consent is not dispenses with, has consented to and understands the nature and effect of an Adoption Order, and in particular in the case of any parent – understands that the effect of the Adoption Order shall be permanently to deprive him or her of his or her parental rights” (1958 Adoption of Children’s Act Section 6)

The above clearly outlines the Judges’ responsibilities towards the natural mother and **father** in relation to the Adoption Order as **both parents still had parental rights whether married or not – up until the endorsement of the Adoption Order by the Court. They failed in their legal responsibilities. The injustices and crimes continued.**

During my research I was fortunate enough to interview and discuss with the former Attorney General of Victoria, The Honorable Vernon Wilcox (now deceased) during this era, my grave concerns regarding the injustices against natural mothers and his reply

“because the social workers were seen as upstanding citizens their word was always believed by the Judge. It was necessary for the Social Worker to advise the court at the time an application for adoption that Section 6 of the 1958 Adoption of Children’s Act had been complied with. The words the social worker used were “verify believed” that both parents understood the effect of the Adoption Order.

Both parents – a natural father was NEVER CONSULTED and the Social Worker never informed the Court that the father had not been consulted and also did not advise the court as to what procedures and process they had gained the baby for adoption. The baby farming advised by the Hon. Arthur Rylah to the Victorian Parliament was endorsed by the court.

It is important to mention that The Adoption Act of each State differed in many ways and the differences of each State cannot be confused with other States. The Victorian Act stated:

GUARDIAN AD LITEM

A guardian ad litem was appointed by the Court under the 1958 Adoption of Children's Act and the 1958 Court Rules approximately 5 days prior to the hearing of an application for an Adoption Order. The Director General of the Department of Welfare had no authority within the 1958 Act, but natural mothers did and once again were denied their rights.

“Legal Instructions and responsibilities for a guardian ad litem were to investigate and ensure that the mother was not misled or uninformed of the facilities available to help her to keep her child. These instructions included homes licensed under the Child Welfare Act for the private care of children apart from their natural mother, financial assistance to unmarried mothers under Section 27 of the Child Welfare Act, taken to state control until the mother is in the position to care for her child and assistance to affiliate the child and obtain a maintenance order against the putative father.

His responsibility was also to defend actions on behalf of the child – investigate all the circumstances surrounding the adoption – interview all parties concerned including the natural mother/father and then make a full report to the Court.” (Child Care and the Growth of Love Dr. John Bowilly MA MD for the World Health Organisation 1957).

With the passing of time as the truth was submerged (sunken) in Government Archives the Government departmental workers continued the fabrication of truth but did not realize they were providing important evidence of past forced adoption practices.

“Information in the court record of an adoption pertaining to the Guardian ad litem relates to and verified information presented in an affidavit to the court by the adoption parents” (...) Manager, Adoption Information Service, Department of Human Services, Melbourne letter 5.6.1998 addressed to writer)

VERY CLEAR EVIDENCE THAT NATURAL MOTHERS UNDER THE 1958 ADOPTION OF CHILDREN'S ACT WERE DENIED THEIR NATURAL JUSTICE AND HAD THEIR RIGHTS DENIED TWICE

The actions of the guardian ad litem were an illegal act and are directly forbidden by law. The doer is penalized and the act cannot create any legal right. (Crimes Act).

Child Stealing (Crimes Act No 6231 – 1958)

Section 9 -63

- (1) **Whosoever unlawfully either by force or fraud leads or takes away or decoys or entices away or detains any child under the age of sixteen years, with intent to deprive any parent or guardian or any other person having the lawful care or charge of such child of the possession of such child or with intent to steal any article upon or about the person of such child and whosoever with any such intent receives or harbors any such child knowing the same to have been by force or fraud led taken decoyed enticed away or detained, shall be guilty of felony, and shall be liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than 5 years."**

Felony – Taking away or detaining any child under 16 with the intent to deprive the parent of lawful possession of the child.

The above evidence speaks for itself – and there are many persons who should be liable to imprisonment for a term of not more than 5 years. If a stranger walked into a hospital and kidnapped a baby, when caught, they would face criminal charges – therefore it is no different to a social worker from an agency going to a hospital, picking up my baby **without my permission** and taking her out of the hospital (intent) and detains my daughter **without my permission** with intent to deprive me of having the lawful care of my daughter?

All laws made by the Parliaments (Federal or State) shall be binding by the courts, judges and people of every State and every party of the Commonwealth.

The Commonwealth Government must acknowledge that they played a vital role in forced adoptions.

FURTHER ACTIONS AGAINST A NATURAL MOTHER

Consents were obtained under

'Undue influence'

"Having firm or preconceived ideas about what is best for the client is of course to ignore the primary ethical obligation to promote client self determination". (Osborn Concise Law Dictionary Seventh Edition by Roger Bird 1983)

Consents were also taken under duress and coercion. Mothers were drugged for the first 5 days and consents taken under drugs are **invalid**.

1983 Adoption Legislation Review Committee Report (Victoria Parliament)

9.1.2 The Committee wishes to protect the welfare and interests of the **natural parents** particularly during the difficult period leading up to making a decision.... As we are aware that in the past **the interests of the natural parents have not been protected**.

9.3.2 Natural mothers are often not given advice and support which may help them **consider alternatives to adoption**. We are aware that **natural mothers** may be under **pressure from their family, adoption workers or hospital staff to give up the child**.

These words cannot be any clearer and whilst the Committee did not admit to the criminal actions of the past, the report was very carefully written and Working Paper Part 1 also recognizes past practices.

Further in this report “In the past unwed mothers were forced to give up their baby” – acknowledgement by the Victorian Government therefore the

Commonwealth Government is responsible as Victoria Government’s actions are part of the Commonwealth Constitution. All parties should have been made aware of the centrality of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution for understanding the division of responsibility of welfare provisions.

MacKillop Family Services (John Honner and Jenny Glare)

During the Commonwealth Senate Inquiry into Institutional Care (Forgotten Australians) these people presented to the Inquiry in December 2003 a Supplementary Submission entitled “**Acknowledging Mothers**”.

The Commonwealth Government was further made aware during the above Inquiry of the grief, loss and suffering of mothers. The following is an extract from the Acknowledging Mothers submission:

“the pain of learning many years later that their baby had died whilst in care and of not being informed of this at the time of their baby’s death.

Having unresolved issues of loss and grief because they were unsupported at the time of separation continues to affect mothers throughout their lives.

Mothers have the right for their anguish and pain to be heard and are similarly in need of support and acknowledgement. Their suffering will continue until it is acknowledged and addressed and adequate support services are in place. Medical and social work curriculums should provide for the training of specialists in an understanding of the implications of past practices and in particular for the support of both mothers and children suffering grief and loss as a result of their separation”.

This moving submission INFORMED THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IN 2003 OF THE GRIEF, PAIN AND SUFFERING NATURAL MOTHERS SUFFERED THEN AND STILL SUFFERED BUT THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT IGNORED MACKILLOP FAMILY SERVICES SUBMISSION. MacKillop Family Services represent Josephite and Mercy Nuns.

I also appeared before the Senate Inquiry in camera and presented my personal case and reams of evidence about the pain, grief and suffering of mothers and on the drug experimentations on babies. The drug experimentation research resulted in *The Age* in October 2004 (front page and page 10) detailing evidence of the drug experimentations on children in institutional care – the majority born to unmarried mothers. Following these articles, television coverage and the media articles that followed, the then Minister Tony Abbott responded on behalf of the Commonwealth Government denying all such acts of abuse and mistreatment of babies. The previous Government reports are in the Commonwealth Government’s library in Canberra.

AUSTRALIA’S OWN FIRST HUMAN RIGHTS LAW

Australia’s very first law is now regarded as the most fundamental of human rights. It was written in 1787 by Captain Arthur Phillips waiting while the First Fleet was, at his humane insistence, being fully provisioned for its eight-month voyage.

“There can be no slavery in a free land”

He decreed ‘and consequently no slaves’. (The Statute of Liberty

How Australians can take back their rights; Geoffrey Robertson page 51

Vintage 2009)

“It is of great importance not only to guard society against

The oppression of its rulers, but to guard one part of society

Against the injustice of the other part. If men were angels

No government would be necessary. James Madison 1787

IF ONLY OUR PAST POLITICANS HAD OF BEEN ANGELS

NATURAL MOTHERS AND THEIR BABIES WOULD STILL BE A FAMILY.

AUSTRALIA CONSTITUTION

The Commonwealth Constitution provides and protects the framework for the Australian system of Government. It is our most important founding document and a symbol of our national life.

It is not the only Constitution in Australia. Each of the 6 States has a constitution of its own, which provides a framework for the system of Government of that State. All of these are subject to the Commonwealth Constitution, however.

They must be consistent with it. If they are not, the Commonwealth Constitution will not prevail. (Sir Ninian Stephen, Chair, Constitutional Centenary Foundation 1997 'Introduction page 1' The Australian Constitution)

It is imperative for the reader to note, that although the State Parliament can pass laws on a wider range of subjects than the Commonwealth Parliament, the Commonwealth is the more powerful partner in the federation.

One of the principal reasons for this is SECTION 109 of the Commonwealth Constitution which provides that if a valid Commonwealth law is inconsistent with a law of a State Parliament, the COMMONWEALTH LAW OPERATES AND THE STATE LAW IS INVALID TO THE EXTENT OF THE INCONSISTENCY.

Note: The Commonwealth Law in relation to the environment and preserving heritage in Australia overrode the Tasmanian Government and the FRANKLIN RIVER WAS SAVED. The Commonwealth intervened and its law became the law of Tasmania.

Therefore the fact that I along with other natural mothers were denied our human rights as well as financial assistance the Commonwealth Constitution has clearly been broken and therefore the Commonwealth Government must accept responsibility for the unethical and illegal crimes against natural mothers and their babies.

The following amendment was made to the Commonwealth Constitution in the aftermath of the Second World War when there was a great demand for welfare services of all kinds. The government of the day attempted to respond to this demand but litigation in the high court from a State Government alleging that the Commonwealth Government lacked constitutional power

The constitution as it stood then only covered invalid and old age pensions therefore in 1946 the following amendment was made to the Commonwealth Constitution. This much more extensive social security power was added to the Constitution in 1946, after the High Court had held that the Commonwealth could not provide for the payment of pharmaceutical benefits. Like all other amendments to the Constitution, it was approved by referendum.

Section 51. **The Parliament shall, subject to this Constitution, have power to make laws for the peace, order, and good government of the Commonwealth with respect to:**

(xxiiiA) The provision of maternity allowances, widows' pensions, child endowment, unemployment, pharmaceutical, sickness and hospital benefits, medical and dental services benefits and family allowances.

Why were these benefits denied to natural mothers who suffered 'forced adoptions' of their babies? The Commonwealth Government failed natural mothers and they were also never protected by the Commonwealth Government from State Government crimes committed. State Governments are part of the Commonwealth of Australia and do not stand alone thus the **Commonwealth Government are responsible for all the illegal and unethical practices of the States in the kidnapping of a newborn baby from a natural mother in the labor ward and later placed for adoption.**



Under the Constitution the Commonwealth Government provided

- funds for the public hospitals in which natural mothers were abused, treated inhumanly and had their babies kidnapped.
- Liberty and security of the person (natural mothers)
- No interference by one person with another person is lawful unless there is an existing rule of law of which authorises the interference in question.

Natural mothers and their babies were guaranteed protection under the Commonwealth Constitution and the Commonwealth Governments in the period 1950-1970 failed.

“In an overwhelming majority of instances an attempted interference with civil liberty, will have to be justified by reference to a statute or regulations etc. made under a statute, and the inquiry will have to be carried back into the Federal constitution in order to establish whether the statute in question is itself valid, as we have seen, the main grounds on which such a statute could turn out to be invalid relate not to the circumstances that it authorises invasion of a civil liberty, but to the rules regulating the distribution of powers between the Australian Government and the States.” (The Australian Constitution, Geoffrey Sawer, Canberra 16 December 1974)

There was no **rule of law** that allowed an unmarried mother and her baby to be separated at birth for the scheme of forced adoptions. The interference of a mother and her baby's civil liberty constitutes a serious crime and the wording on James Henry Scullin's tombstone (below) is important because the Commonwealth politicians **should have enacted the 'interference' clause**

JAMES HENRY SCULLIN
Prime Minister of the Commonwealth of
Australia - October 1929 – January 1932
died 28.1.1953 (76 years)

The Tombstone on the former Prime Minister's grave was erected by the Federal Executive of the ACTU – Federal Parliamentary Labor Party and ACTU on behalf of the Labor Movement of Australia.

“Justice and Humanity demand interference whenever the weak are being crushed by the strong” J.H.S.

These beautiful words are so relevant at this part of



my submission If Mr. Scullin had of been Prime Minister during the period under discussion unmarried mothers and their babies civil liberties and human rights would never have been crushed.

R.I.P. Mr. Scullin

Under Constitutional Law the Commonwealth Politicians were obliged to oversee the carrying out of legislation in line with Constitution and Rule of Law. They sat back and allowed each State Government to carry out such crimes. They also allowed each State Government to misappropriate welfare funds that were provided by the Commonwealth to each State for young mothers. It was not until 1973 when the former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam who was an advocate for the Commonwealth Constitution and the Commonwealth Government became directly responsible for Commonwealth funds and recipients no longer had to rely on the misappropriation of Commonwealth funds by each State”.

The former Prime Minister then upgraded welfare funds for sole parents to the same level as Widows former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam's own words in his book on **“Australia's Constitution page 328 published 1977”**. The definition of ‘widows’ pensions’ included widows, deserted wives, single mothers, defacto women, wives of prisoners.

FIND THE LAW

How is the law made and where can you find the law?

There is no one place to find the law, it is not all written down in one document or one set of books

This is because the law comes from different places at different times

- . Constitution
- . Legislation (Acts of Parliament or Statutes)
- . Common Law (Equity)
- . Judge made law – where a judge cannot find a law that fits the case that they are trying to decide on.

The Constitution is a single written document that set out how the State, the courts and the public servant are to be run and puts into law the basic rights and freedoms of all human beings,

It is the **Supreme Law of the Land**. Any other law that are not consistent or what the Constitution says are of no legal effect.

*“73 PLACEMENTS OVER THE 1969-1970 PERIOD. It appears that **the increase in financial aid available for single mothers**, introduced in the first half of 1970 has not resulted in a continuing decrease in requests for adoptions but may have prevented a larger increase”.*

The myths that have continually be written that with the introduction of the Supporting Mother’s Pension (which was always available) in 1974 – that no funds were available – the above gives evidence that the DEMAND of infertile couples for a baby had not decreased – so what did infertile couples do after the CRIMES of baby farming became more obvious to politicians thus **forced adoption scheme closed down.**

It also closed down because the Government withdrew funding for Homes that housed the babies that were forcibly removed from the mother awaiting adoption. Governments went into overdrive to fix the ‘baby farming’ crimes through several avenues. The Hospital and Charities Commission ceased (where the crimes were endorsed – see notes below) and politicians took on the responsibility of distributing Commonwealth funds following the outstanding actions of the former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam.

The former Prime Minister Gough Whitlam played a major role in the ‘forced adoption’ practices to cease as he listened to the newly formed group “Single Mothers and their Babies” that was formed in 1968 standing up against the atrocities that were being carried out against natural mothers and their babies. In Victoria, with the demise of the former Liberal Premier Sir Henry Bolte (who governed during the period of forced adoptions), the Labor Party came to office and along with the Federal Labor Prime Minister the fabric of natural mothers and their babies life’s changed positively forever.

Social Cleansing

Just as Hitler began his own social cleansing campaign by first sterilising anyone considered to be social misfits so did Australia follow a social cleaning campaign based on a predicted trend. This time the plan was to control illegitimacy by eradicating unwed mothers from society through the promotion of a myth. This myth was created to provide a market demand for the illegitimate babies of their young mothers.

VICTORIA GOVERNMENT ROLE WITH THE ENDORSEMENT OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT

The Hospital and Charities Commission Victoria under the Chairmanship of Dr Lindel following this court case, on 28 May 1958 endorsed the

‘modern outlook in the matter of unmarried motherhood be concurred in as bring more in line with modern medical opinion’ in his own handwriting on a memorandum sent to him by Dr. Davis, Medical Officer, Hospital and Charities Commission dated 22nd May 1958.

The enclosure to Dr. Davis' memorandum listed at para 3 of enclosure 1 concurred with the 'modern outlook'.

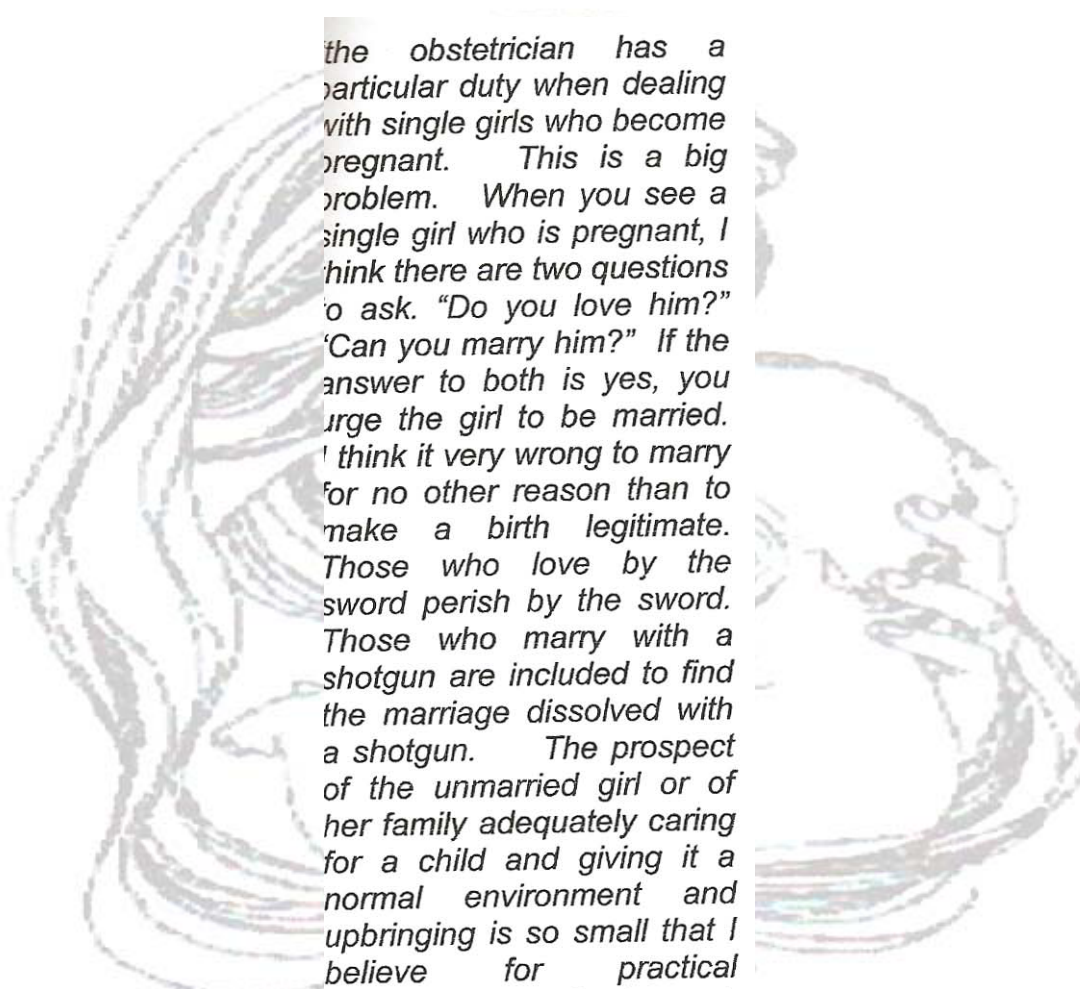
All of these documents are held at the Public Records Office of Victoria.

In 1959 Dr. D.F. Lawson leading doctor from the Royal Women's Hospital delivered a lecture at the R.D. Featherstone Memorial Lecture titled

"The Obstetrician's Anxieties".

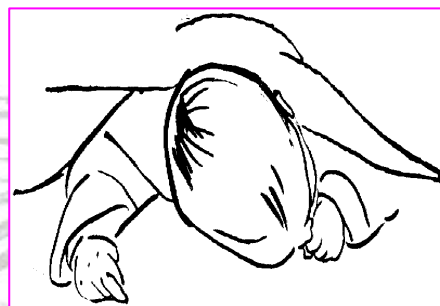
The following words are example of the modern outlook towards unmarried mothers and followed the Court Case in Victoria under the Police Act – Obscenity Clause in 1957.

Co-incidence? I don't think so.



the obstetrician has a particular duty when dealing with single girls who become pregnant. This is a big problem. When you see a single girl who is pregnant, I think there are two questions to ask. "Do you love him?" "Can you marry him?" If the answer to both is yes, you urge the girl to be married. I think it very wrong to marry for no other reason than to make a birth legitimate. Those who love by the sword perish by the sword. Those who marry with a shotgun are included to find the marriage dissolved with a shotgun. The prospect of the unmarried girl or of her family adequately caring for a child and giving it a normal environment and upbringing is so small that I believe for practical purposes it can be ignored. I believe that in all such cases the obstetrician should urge that the child be adopted. "When in doubt don't" is part of the wisdom of living – but over adoptions I would suggest that "when in doubt, do" should be the rule."

"That illegitimate or unwanted babies should be found better homes and that everyone – the child, the mother and the adopting family – would be better off was an unshakeable conviction. Everyone agreed that a single mother was unable to provide both financially and socially and that she owed it to her child to give it a better chance in life. Don Lawson senior obstetric consultant at the Women's, argued, at the R. H. Fetherstone Memorial Lecture, that the obstetrician had a duty to 'urge' the unmarried to relinquish their babies, to break the cycles of poverty and parental dysfunction, and that adoption was a case where the rule "when in doubt, do' should prevail. A single mother was doomed to poverty and marginality."
(Page 272 *Sex and Suffering Women's Health and a Women's Hospital – Janet McCalman 1998*)



Such an attitude endorses the abuse unmarried mothers received at the hands of the medical profession and hospital management thus breaking the Commonwealth Constitution and Commonwealth Rule of Law. It has been unable to be confirmed or otherwise whether the Matron at the Royal Women's Hospital was related to (...) (...)

A picture paints a thousand words and it is with great pain and grief I include this photo. Heading: Unhappy event – midwives at a Melbourne hospital (below) use shackles and a pillow to stop a single mother-to-be seeing her baby (from Four Corners story ABC 1971) and republished in NSW newspaper in 2001.



This picture displays the violation of a mother’s human rights and her status as a mother. It further endorses Dr. Don Lawson’s comments together with the following extract:

“It used to be thought that it was the unmarried mother’s duty to keep her baby and carry with her the burden and reminder of her sin. Not much thought was given to the welfare of the child. People felt that girls who kept their babies were less likely to become illegitimately pregnant again. These views have largely changed. The emphasis now is on helping the girl make a wise decision about what will be best for her baby. Will she be able to offer him the security that every child needs or will he have a better chance in life if he goes into an adoptive home where he will have two parents who will truly love and want him?” “Many women suffer acutely when they give up a child”. (Yours by Choice 1959 – Jane Rowe page 58).

Illegitimately pregnant!!!! (unlawful, illegal, illicit, dishonest and criminal)

Illegal and unethical crimes

Drugs

The use of drugs on unmarried mothers was illegal as no medical person received a written consent or verbal consent for the usage of such drugs. The hypnotic drugs used on mothers immediately after the birth placed the mother in a psychogenic amnesia and to create such a condition was illegal making any consents taking within the hospital, invalid.

Other drugs given to unmarried mothers throughout the first 5 days after the birth of her baby included Sodium Pentobarbital, Sodium amytal, Sparine, Doriden, Pethidine, 20 mgm of estrogen, Choral Hydrate, Tryptolene and Stilboestrol. Other drugs used were morphine, heroin and valium. A preconceived plan to abduct a mother’s baby resulting in after drugs stopped – disassociation of memory of a block in her life not a defensive reaction but a false personality characterized by numbness.

It further gives proof and credence that mothers and babies were treated inhumanly and the mother drugged so she had no say over the future of their lives. No decision could be made about the events **until after the birth** but the system was certainly in place prior to the birth. Because the decisions had already been made prior to the birth to administer such drugs deepens the crimes committed.

Did they see unmarried mothers as an opportunity to experiment with new drugs like they did with our babies when they were placed in ‘homes’ prior to being handed over to prospective adoptive parents?

My conversations during my research with former staff of a maternity home advised that senior staff gave injections to children as a cost saving project as it eliminated the doctor’s costs each time a baby/child became ill.

Blood was taken from babies by punching the baby’s ear lobes and cotton swabs – all without the mother’s permission. Such medical experiments were only carried out in Victoria in partnership with Commonwealth Serum Laboratories and Walter and Eliza Institute throughout the 1950/1970’s. The Commonwealth Serum Laboratories were FUNDED BY THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT.

Stilboestrol

The use of DES on me to stop lactation was an **action of intent**.

It was a cancerous drug resulting in many natural mothers suffering from either breast cancer or uterus cancer in the future. The DES drug was only to be used in the event of a likely miscarriage IT WAS NEVER INTENDED BY THE MANUFACTURERS TO BE USED TO STOP LACTATION AFTER BIRTH. Letter from manufacturer’s addressed in 1996 confirming the misuse of this drug to stop lactation is amongst my research papers. The manufacturers themselves confirming the crime committed against unmarried mothers.

The side effects of this illicit drug is cancer of the breast and uterus if given after birth but it is well documented that if this drug was given to a mother during her pregnancy to avoid a miscarriage, it is more than likely that a girl baby could suffer breast and/or uterus cancer in the future and if the baby was a boy, it is more than likely he would suffer from prostate cancer in the future. A clinic was set up at the Royal Women’s Hospital in Melbourne 20 years ago to treat patients who had this cancerous drug administered to them.

It was administered to me immediately after the birth of my daughter and I suffered uterus cancer several years after the birth of my daughter (resulting in a full hysterectomy at the age of 23 years) that my Gynecologist in his medical opinion believed was caused by the administering of the DES drug after the birth of my first daughter. I have also suffered breast cancer.

My health was also put at risk when I was never informed at the time of the birth of my daughter, of the medical problems that I incurred during the birth placing my life at risk during my next pregnancy. This information was only discovered when a search was made for birth records.

National Study on the Service Response to Past Adoption Practices

At the present time the Commonwealth Government has commissioned a National Study on the Service Response to Past Adoption Practices by the Australian Institute of Family Services from 1940s through to the 1980s. The focal point of the Research Study will be mothers affected by these past adoption practices; however, the Research Study will also consider adoptee, adoptive parents and fathers.

The present Senate Inquiry Terms of Reference No. 2 is covered under this National Research Study yet a report for the Community and Disability Services Ministers Conference detailing the evidence collected through the Research Study continues until mid 2012. Why is there two investigations now and why did the former Minister endorse such a delay? It is hoped that the present Senate Inquiry does not refer Terms of Reference No 2 to the AIFS. The results of the National Research Study and the findings of the Senate Inquiry may be in conflict – with further embarrassment to the Government Adoption Statistics. The AIFS research should be cancelled. Many mothers have spoken against AIFS preliminary report and changes were made.

The above Research Study may also produce best possible estimates of the number of mothers and children currently living in Australia who were affected by past adoption practices but will not provide precise quantitative data on the extent or prevalence of the practices. How will they be able to ascertain ‘the best possible estimates....’?

What I believe the Senate Inquiry needs to do is to ascertain the number of forced adoptions to unmarried mothers especially under the age of 21 (until the Age of Majority was changed to 18) during the period under investigation.

**In the womb we
marinate in the energy that becomes the beginning of life.**

Whilst carrying our babies, they marinated in the foundation of our loving relationship. They learned and experienced things in the womb and once born they continued the pattern they experienced throughout their lives. The most loving experience of

our lives are our birth. Our birth is one of the most profound demonstrations of God’s love. The trauma left by separating mother and child has a lasting impression on both mother and child’s souls that will work

it out in future relationships and most profoundly in our love relationships.

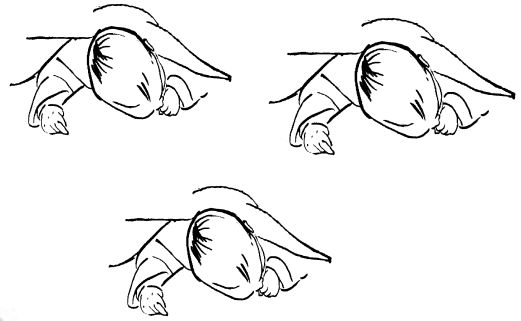
In the womb we are shaped and molded by God. We are nurtured, protected and loved unconditionally by God. At birth we breathe the gift of life with no strings attached.

Our children will always remember the foundation of their life and will experience pure unconditional love shown to them whilst in the womb.

(...)

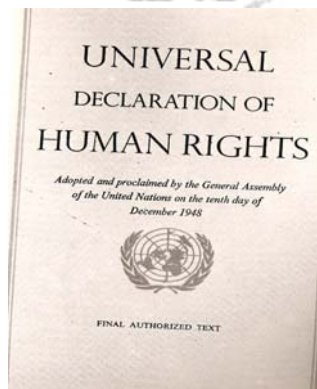
Three little treasures that have touched my heart during my research

*My promise to you all as I stood at
Your graves – Your deaths
Will not be ignored,
Your truth will be heard.*



UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Australia is a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Natural Mothers and their babies were denied their human rights by the Commonwealth Government as they had the power to step in and stop all the atrocities being carried out against natural mothers and their babies under this document.



Australia played a crucial part in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – their role in the foremost human rights treaty is rarely mentioned.

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is truly the Magna Carta of

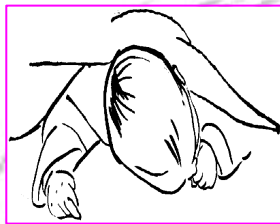
mankind and is a tribute to Dr Evatt Presidency of the General Assembly (he was Australia's Foreign Minister) and the remarkable part our tiny nation (whose population was only seven million) had played in the 81 drafting sessions that had taken place behind closed doors over the preceding two years.

With the Australian Government's approval Dr. Evatt made Australia's mark at the Paris Peace Conference in 1946 where he was the first to suggest the establishment of a European Court of Human Rights. Evatt's vision which came to pass in 1951 is the European Court of Human Rights at Strasburg and he is the true progenitor of the most influential human rights court in the world today.

Australians were well protected by human rights with the Australian Government between 1945-1951 standing up and playing a vital role in the world's human rights.

No further argument needs to be produced really as the Commonwealth Government's' roles after this time, in allowing the atrocities to occur to natural mother and their babies in the 1950 to early 1970's

Australia is MY COUNTRY as well as anybody else and it is most important that TRUTH be recorded on the separation of mother and baby at birth.



The unmarried mother condemned for her behavior yet the male's partiality for women an acceptable behavior in society with no consequences or responsibilities. The natural answer to that question is that the **male fraternity** believed they were more important to society than women.

Further the Magna Carta dated 1297 is regarded as the first human rights charter – Clause 29 provides

“To no man will we deny, to no man will we delay, justice or right.”

It was refurbished by English parliamentary leaders in 1628 and became a central legal weapon. The Magna Carta produced *habeas corpus*. It is the foundation of Westminster Law and the Commonwealth Constitution is formulated under the Magna Carta, Westminster Law and the United States structure dealing with the judiciary or court system.

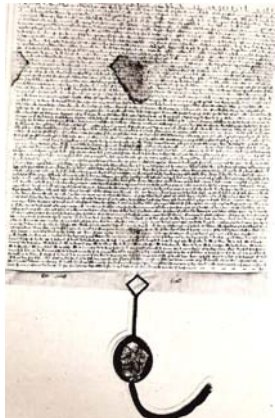
Natural Mothers and their babies were protected as far back as 1297 yet their rights denied by the Commonwealth of Australia.

A relative in relation to a child i.e. grandparent, uncle, aunt of the child, whether the relationship is of the whole blood or half, was (and still is) entitled to make application to the court for Adoption of the said infant. Such applications were (and still are) entitled to be heard at the same time as a pro-adoptive parents' application. Such information was never relayed to these persons and in so doing; the withholding of such paramount information is against the “Rule of Law”. (Maintenance, Custody and Adoption Law 1967 J.P. Bourke, Q.C., M.A. LL.B. Member of the Bar Victoria, New South Wales and Tasmania and Deputy Judge of the County Court of Victoria and J.F. Fogarty LL.B. – Barrister-at-Law, Victoria)

The above is proof regarding the Rule of Law that was continually broken with forced adoptions as **stated by a Deputy Judge of the County Court of Victoria in 1967.**

The Commonwealth Government played a major role under Constitutional Law and the Rule of Law for the suffering that so many mothers endured as a result of forced adoption policies. The Commonwealth Senate Inquiry into Institutional Care recognised the Government's treatment of unmarried mothers and their babies.





The Magna Carta
Document dated 1297

Rule of Law

The Rule of Law means that **everyone** including Government has to obey and is subject to the law – NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW AS SO MANY BELIEVED THEY WERE.

Constitution applies to everyone and so does the Rule of Law. The Rule of Law requires law to be explained or interrupted and enforced by independent courts which are supposed to be fair. The Courts that endorsed forced adoptions certainly failed their responsibilities under the Rule of Law and our Constitution.

The Rule of Law is set by a Court and in the State of Victoria the separation of mother and baby became a Court ruling under the **Police Act – Obscenity Clause in 1957.**

Natural mothers were found guilty of a phantom crime against society.

“to protect family life and through it an ordered society which is organised on the basis of the continuance of the family as its basic unit.” Extract from Judge’s summary.

This judge set a common law precedent that **did not** override the Commonwealth Constitution, the Rule of Law of even the United Nation’s

Declaration of Rights to the Status of Unmarried mothers.

The Judge’s unbuttressed opinions set in place a **Common Law** in the State of Victoria. The prosecution was represented by a solicitor who later became a Judge in the County Court where adoption orders were heard in camera.

During the Appeal of this case

“to punish a woman not simply for what she had done, but for the unproven consequences of what she done and still further for the unpredictable consequences of these consequences of giving birth outside marriage”. (wording copied from within judgment of appeal).

More details of this Court ruling will be provided in a forthcoming submission from Victoria. Those involved in the atrocities of separating mother and baby at birth for forced adoptions, knew and understood the laws that applied to their positions. They are ruled by the Rule of Law, Human Rights and not the Common Law made by a Judge.

In order for these practices to take place, plans were already set in motion for that action to take place.

Mother and baby were separated at birth because the Commonwealth Government allowed it all to happen in order to appease infertile couples as a consequence of World War II. The scheme hides the fact that many males were unable to father children and placed the infertility problem on the shoulders of the woman by writing on adoption application form “the woman is barren”. These males (ineffective, incapable of producing sperm) had to hide their embarrassment from Society therefore the male medical profession

(many of them possibly impotent themselves) put in place a kidnapping racket to help them save face. With the Commonwealth Government's slogan "Populate or Perish" after WWII – these males would have been frowned upon when childless.

It is perfectly clear that the 'male ego' played a big role in the separation of mother and baby at birth with the natural father being denied his legal rights, as these impotent males were the focus of the medical profession. *"Sorry you can't father a child but we can do the next best thing – we will target unmarried mothers' babies and push the natural father off the scene"*. It became a clear agenda of males versus natural fathers.

Pensions by abolishing the discrimination of classes of 'widows' – all widows now receive the same amount. FACT. Confirmed by the

In many past articles so called experts continually state that no financial assistance was available for young mothers.

Even the recent AIFS Report to the Commonwealth Minister of Human Services, states THAT NO FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE WAS AVAILABLE FOR MOTHERS.

Why are the lies of the past continually repeated over and over and over again? The following article is also a written example that assistance was available.

Till the present time monies from the Commonwealth Government are still outstanding for maternity allowance and child endowment payments to a natural mother. These will never be paid because the various Annual Reports of Hospitals detailed the payments of these monies to the Hospital where the babies that were separate from their natural mother were born including child endowment.

INTERESTING TO NOTE as these monies were from the COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT which makes them further responsible for the 'forced adoptions'.



SYDNEY MORNING HERALD JUNE 17, 1999 Page 2

Adoption group says sorry

By JULIA BAIRD

The Catholic Church's welfare arm, Centacare, yesterday officially apologised for all the hurt caused by its "illegal" and "unethical" adoption practices over the past three decades.

The church has faced a series of allegations, at a State inquiry into past adoption practices, that single mothers were drugged and coerced into giving up their babies for adoption.

The director of children and youth services at Centacare Catholic Community Services, Mr Craig Wilson, told the inquiry that an apology should be made despite the good intentions of past agency workers. The agency, which was

started in 1967 by the St Vincent De Paul Society, was taken over by Centacare in 1990.

"We need to say sorry because we see the immense amount of ongoing grief and loss that past adoption practices have created," Mr Wilson said. "We also apologise for any individual cases where there were illegal or unethical practices ..."

One man, who asked not to be named, told the inquiry that he was not allowed to see his child after his girlfriend's father declared "father unknown" on the birth certificate.

The man said on the insistence of the girl's father, police arrested him in 1967, aged 19, for carnal knowledge after his

17-year-old girlfriend became pregnant. "I was given some counselling at the hospital when the baby was being born by one of the nursing sisters there: 'Piss off and leave the hospital, it's none of your business'," he said.

The inquiry also heard evidence of mothers being pressured into giving up their children, and being heavily sedated while making their decisions. Mrs Patricia Farrar, a lecturer at the University of Technology, said she was "routinely given large doses of barbiturates" for four days before signing consent papers and, on two occasions when she gave up children for adoption, was not told of any alternative options.

My Meeting with CEO MacKillop Family Services and Provincial Leader of Josephine Nuns 30 May 2002.

I include these notes as the Nuns have been condemned in the past for their role in the 'baby farming' activities but I do not believe that is correct. I sincerely believe that as Nuns they were dominated by the Archbishop of the Catholic Church did what they were told. They represented Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop who opened the home and adoption was never part of her views for her profession and the St. Joseph's Home she set up.

Saint Mary of the Cross MacKillop wish was to help mothers but somewhere down the track her wishes were disregarded by whomever.

The Josephite Nuns were in charge of the Broadmeadows Maternity/Orphanage Home until its closure in the late 1970's. Sister relayed stories of many children that were cared for by the Nuns in all the homes and in relaying these stories sister displayed a beautiful air of love for all these children. Sister advised that the newborn babies became part of the Nun's work in the late 1950's when numbers increased immensely. She said it was not for the Nuns to ask why as it was not in their profession's rules to ask "why; but for them to 'just do' and much love was given to all the children.

Sister also advised

- those newly born babies were only a small percentage of babies cared for by the Nuns at Broadmeadows.

- The Story “*Better for the Babies*” did not completely touch on the subject as she had it explained to her prior to her permission being granted for the project.
- Many mothers would not disclose the name of the father
- **When a mother did name the father, his name was always eliminated from any documentation.**
- This was the procedure required by the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau.
- Catholic Family Welfare Bureau carried out the administration work with mothers.
- Social Workers had all papers in place for adoption **before the birth of the baby.**
- **Once the baby was born adoption procedures were immediately put into place.**
- From the 1964 Adoption Act (Victoria) the Nuns were never involved in adoption administration work.
- **Father counseling groups were held by the Nuns, as the Nuns believed that the fathers were being treated unjustly.**
- Mothers when they went out into public wore wigs and sunglasses and it was not until the late 1960’s that mothers felt comfortable to ‘step out’ without sunglasses. Sister said the mothers wanted that protection.

Fathers counseling services, papers in place for adoption **before the birth of the baby** and once the baby was born adoption procedures were immediately put into place IS CLEAR EVIDENCE AND ENDORSEMENT OF WHAT MOTHERS ARE SAYING. The Josephite Nuns did not enter the picture until the baby was placed in their care – therefore playing no role in the **adoption papers being put in place before the birth of the baby.**

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Papers in place for adoption before the birth of the baby | ILLEGAL |
| After birth adoption procedures immediately put into place | ILLEGAL |
| When a mother named the father his name was eliminated | ILLEGAL |

These are very strong TRUTHFUL ENDORSEMENTS of WHAT NATURAL MOTHERS ARE SAYING and what occurred.

Full responsibility AND CONSEQUENCES belongs to the Public Hospital system and the **CATHOLIC FAMILY WELFARE BUREAU AND NOT THE JOSEPHITE NUNS** for the actions taken against unmarried mothers and their babies.

CONSENT for adoption

Whilst much has been written on the undue influence, duress and coercion mothers suffered immediately after the birth of their baby, the document

“Adoption Legislation and Practice in Victoria 1945 to 1984
Background paper for the Department of Human Services
Written by James Jenkinson, Consultant, Welfare and Research, North
Melbourne 2000” is a valuable document of evidence.

This document was commissioned in line with the Victorian Government’s policy to hold a Parliamentary Inquiry to consider past adoption practices. The findings in this document were damaging to the Victorian Government and as a result the Inquiry did not take place.

The consultant could find little information on the **actual taking of consents under the 1958 Act or previous legislation.**

*“However the literature points to major concerns regarding the lack of safeguards in the process and the social and situational pressure on young women at the time of the decision to relinquish or not to relinquish. Even with the introduction of the 30 day period for revocation, concerns remained that consents were being taken by people **totally unsuited to the situation.**” (pages 17 and 18 of above report).*

With the proclamation of the 1964 Adoption Act in Victoria **the Government assumed full responsibility for adoption practices and procedures. Where was the Commonwealth Government’s interference when the interest of the child was placed before the mother’s?**

Confirmation – why would they interfere when they had carried out the same practices of separation of mother and baby at birth from 1951?

WHAT A SURPRISE!

The first information package relating to the 1964 Adoption legislation was published in 1968 and targeted to two specific groups. First published was a booklet

“Notes on Adoption”

Aimed at doctors, solicitors, nurses, ministers and other professional groups who may have been involved in the adoption process or the taking of consents.

The second also published in 1968 *“Adoption”* was targeted to applicants who wished to adopt children. (from above report)

NO BOOKLET PUBLISHED ON THE RIGHTS OF NATURAL MOTHER/FATHER.

*“The consent form was to be signed in the presence of and witnessed by an authorized witness. It appears consent forms could be obtained from a stationer as well as approved agencies, the Department and the Courts and there was a suggestion that some of these forms **did not conform to the scheduled requirements.**” (above report page 38),*

Consent forms **WERE TO BE WITNESSED IN THE SAME MANNER AS A STATUTORY DECLARATION.**

Taking and witnessing of a Consent

The above report states that “

“The Adoption Legislation Review Committee in 1978 was particularly critical of the provisions of the 1964 Act for taking and witnessing consents, believing that people witnessing consents needed an appreciation of the consequences of adoption and alternatives to adoption. Further in the

opinion of the committee, some of the persons authorized in the schedule to witness consents did not necessarily have the experience of adoption or sensitivity and appreciation of the issues within adoption and the pressures on parts signing the consent or, most significantly, the alternatives to adoption available.” (page 39 of above report).

The ALRC drew an important distinction between the witnessing and the taking of a consent.

“Consents are frequently taken and witnessed by the person who has counseled the parent. However, the counselor who has worked with the mother is not always the appropriate person to take the consent which the committee felt should be given before a period that has, and should be seen to have an objective view. There may be, for example, a conflict between one role – that of acting on behalf of the parent – and another role involving the provision of a family for a child, especially if the social worker has identified with the prospective adoptive parents (ALRC p145)

Let’s review the above. It is imperative for the Committee to understand that many mothers did not consent to the adoption of their baby whilst they were in hospital – thus conflict did arise when consents were taken by the Principal Officer of an Adoption Agency. Conflict of interest is confirmed because they were acting on behalf of the prospective adoptive parents.

Further, the persons taking the consent was recommended to be the

Registrar or Deputy Registrars of the Court dealing with adoption matters

Or

A Stipendiary Magistrate

The overt and covert pressures placed on a mother to consent to an adoption were ILLEGAL AND UNLAWFUL.

I will not cover any further illegal activities on consent as I am sure it will be widely covered in the majority of submissions the Committee will receive.



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Mother and Child Mother and Child

My womb was our safe haven, but
Sadly, I could not protect us during our separation
Planned by others for another's gain.

They denied me the beating of your little heart against mine
They denied me your first breaths and the
Feel of your warm perfect little fingers
And the right to count your toes.



My breasts were denied the right to
nourish you
And my eyes to watch you grow
My legs to run and play with you
My arms to hold you close
My face to see your smiling eyes

But they failed to see our invisible cord
Our special cord attached to my heart
That only you and I can share

Nobody will ever break our connection
As we are joined by our cord
Unbreakable by man's plans to separate us

I am your mother – you are my child.
My love is yours always wherever
you may be—

You're Mum forever

NATURAL MOTHERS GRIEF (and the kidnappers knew about it all the time)

GRIEF IN THE NATURAL MOTHER: HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION PAPER. 1984.

Dr Kathy Mc Dermott: July 1984. Sec. 55. *The bereavement experienced by the natural mother and her continuing concern about the fate of her child, can take many forms. Some mothers report posting unaddressed birthday cards to their children each year.*

Another possibility is that the bereaved mother will attempt to "replace" the lost child, either by adopting or getting pregnant again as soon as possible. In either case, she is likely to realize too late the new baby is not a substitute for the lost one.

Mc Dermott quotes from (Shawyer) "The emotional havoc wreaked on the natural mothers of adopted children is frightening and it reaches into every other relationship they have with subsequent children and partners" and the mother who repeats her pregnancy in order to recover her adopted child becomes evidence of "the kind of woman" who is unfit to raise a child.

1968.

Sister Mary Borromeo. RSM. BA. Dip.Soc.Wk.

GRIEF OF NATURAL MOTHER.

Adoption: From the Point of View of the Natural Parents.

Borromeo based this article on many years of work with unmarried mothers. Its purpose was to draw attention to the grief reaction which the natural mother experiences after the adoption of her child which both she and her family are ill prepared for.

She compares the separation of adoption to the separation of a child through death.

The loss is as irrevocable in terms of relationship.

Borromeo notes that the surrendering mother knows that acceptance back into her family circle is dependent on her ability to "put it all behind her", and so she is under double pressure to do this and suppress her grief. In cases where this is done it is not unusual to find a severe breakdown in self control occurring somewhere around the child's first birthday.

Division 3 – Powers and Duties of the Council

10. (1) In all courts and before all persons acting judicially a certificate purporting to be signed by the registrar stating that any person is or was at any date or during any period or is not or was not at any date or during any period duly registered as a psychologist under this Act shall be prima facie evidence of the fact so stated.

Did the Social Workers that appeared before the Courts endorsing an adoption application, obtain such a certificate advising the court *THEY HAD COUNSELLED MOTHERS?*

The Courts in conjunction with other Acts of Parliament must read the Adoption Act. The Adoption Act is not an Act of Parliament, which stands on its own. The Social Workers lied to the courts.

PART IV – General

Did Social Workers receive permission from the hospital psychologist to counsel unmarried mothers?

36. A registered psychologist shall not authorise or permit any person who is not registered as a psychologist to practice psychology for or on behalf of such psychologist, except in such cases and in such manner and to such extent as is authorised or permitted by the rules. Penalty \$500.

The hospital psychologist was the only person who could counsel an unmarried mother under the assumptions and opinions under questions as to her emotional state and behavior. There would not be one unmarried mother who was counseled by a hospital psychologist. What do social workers have to say on this point?

39. (1) No person who is not registered as a psychologist shall practice psychology for fee or reward, or for expectation of fee or reward.

HEALTH ACT 1958

Under the Psychological Practices Act the following reads

45. After item 29 in the Second Schedule to the Health Act 1958 there shall be inserted the following item :-

“30. The Psychological Practices Act 1965”.

The above clearly shows all Senators that Social Workers **LIED** and unmarried mothers did not receive counseling thus the consent and all actions thereafter including the court hearing of an adoption application are invalid.

Research

During the past 18 years I have undertaken a comprehensive research on the subject matter. It is totally impossible to refer to all the articles found, but list a few below.

- Journal of Genetic Psychology
- Journal of Contemporary Social Work
- Journal of Marriage and Children
- Family Law
- Journal of Pediatrics
- Statute Law (Government Acts)
- Australian Journal of Social Issues

- Australian Association of Social Workers Annual Reports – National and Victoria
- Australian Association of Social Workers Annual Conference Papers
- Australian Journal of Social Workers
- Commonwealth Bureau of Census and Statistics
- Australian and New Zealand Journal of Sociology
- Annual Report of Australian Council of Social Service
- 1872 State Children's Relief Act
- Journal of Psychiatry
- Annual Reports – Department of Social Security
- National Archives of Australia Records
- Public Records Office of Victoria Records

As well as dozens of Medical Journals to name but a few.

FURTHER COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT BENEFITS AVAILABLE TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS, FATHERS AND THEIR BABIES

Housing – Housing assistance under the Commonwealth Housing Agreement operated from July 1956. The Commonwealth was responsible for financing 3/5th of the cost of rebates to tenants. The remaining 2/5th were borne by the respective States.

Fourteen pounds and ten shillings in 1956 was the basic income. Housing rebate was three pounds six shillings and sixpence. Mothers were entitled to child endowment as well as Long-term Social Service Benefits. Long-term social service benefits received a generous rebate and were therefore able to keep up with rental payments (6th Biennial National Conference 16-20 August 1957)

Eligibility for Social Service Benefits was according to a formula established in 1963 and called Commonwealth Special Benefits and each State also provided State Assistance. The Benefits covered Medical Bills, milk and school books.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT MATERNITY ALLOWANCE

Natural mothers were eligible for Maternity Allowance on the birth of their baby. The amount in the 1960's was \$30-\$35 depending on the number of other children that were in the family. In 1941 Commonwealth Government introduced Maternity Allowance for 2nd and subsequent children. In 1950 The Honorable Robert Menzies, Prime Minister of Australia's Government extended Maternity Allowance to 1st child. In No Government Legislation was it stated that unmarried mothers could not receive this Maternity Allowance and any other benefits they were entitled to. I raise a further question. Where has all these monies gone that were to be paid to unmarried mothers? It would be appreciated if the maternity allowance payable to me at the time of the birth of my daughter is forwarded at the Commonwealth Government's earliest convenience with interest.

The Social Workers failed in their duty to advise mothers of the benefits available to them.

SINGLE MOTHER'S PENSION (personally I have a problem with the terminology of 'single' because does that mean that we refer to a married mother as a double mother?)

It is very easy for Social Workers to make the excuse that “there was no Single Mother’s Pension until 1972.” It was introduced in 1967. That is a play of words – to their own advantage. As much as the title “Single Mother’s Pension” in line with their statement is correct, in 1972 the Whitlam Government “upgraded the benefits for a single mother to the same level as other pensions. He did not introduce a Single Mother’s Pension – he the Government **just upgraded** the present benefits available. ‘It was titled “Single Mother’s Pension to differentiate between “Widow” and “Single” pensions.

Antidote: For those members of the Committee that may remember or their parents may remember the 50/60 era was a revolution – teenagers changing the world with the music, dress sense – all away from the conservative snobbery attitude. My father believed the Beatles should have been locked up and never allowed to influence teenagers. Elvis Presley’s first appearance on American television – Ed Sullivan Show – the cameraman was not allowed to take the picture below Elvis’ waist because his lower movements were too sexual for teenagers to view – and the older generation believe his movements should be banned. Such a great contrast to waltzing around the room to Glenn Miller Music. **TIMES HAD CHANGED FOREVER** and as I tell my grandchildren – “*Nana’s generation changed the world*”... Late in the 1950’s I won a rock ‘n’ roll competition at the local dance and had to give the trophy away as I could never take it home to a set of conservative parents.

Bill Haley, Elvis Presley, Buddy Holly, Johnnie O’Keefe etc. etc. – they were good days but once I was separated from my baby – nothing was ever the same.

Reference: Australian Journal of Social Issues – April 1968 - Social Security in Australia – T.H. Knowles – “The upgrading of a single mother’s pension came about from the public discussions on Policy Issues i.e. Social Security

1872 Victorian State Children’s Relief Act

This was the first Statutory Body in the British Empire to have women as members on the Board to oversee the Policy of this Act. In 1896 marks the first Single mother’s aid scheme. Mothers were supported by the Board from this aid to keep their children with them rather than place them in Foster Care.

Child Endowment Scheme

Child Endowment Scheme was introduced in 1941. Unemployment and Sickness Benefits were introduced in 1945.

Referring documents ’Australian Journal of Social Issues April 1968 Vol 3 No 3 (Paper read at the 11th Annual General Meeting of the Australian Council of Social Services 1967’.

THE COLLAPSE OF FORCED ADOPTIONS

All players in the past adoption practices and policies ignored their victims and gave no ‘re-dress’ to the consequences of what they were doing. The adoption industry

in the mid 1970 – actually collapsed – not because of the excuse so often used – introduction of a single mother’s pension (that had always been in place under a different name) but because ‘those people’ no longer felt safe with their actions. Natural mothers’ were finally finding their voices and the Government’s needed to avoid a scandal or deep investigation into past practices. Further, from the late 1960’s the emotional damage to natural mothers was surfacing and a group “Single Mother and her Baby” was formed and pressure was placed on the Government for the Adoption process to be reviewed.

It has taken some 40 years to achieve such an investigation, and it is hoped that all those given the responsibility – will take this matter serious and look deep into the center of the ‘scandal’ and not stay on the outskirts. The Committee cannot be frightened to state the truth –

MORAL

Moral questions have always been the subject of every decade and back in the 1880’s ‘moral’ included attitude to drinking to attitudes to women or even the people who refused to be Christians. Such **moral** questions have always been raised by ‘leading citizens’ who have been able to control Governments’ and their legislation throughout the ages. So who were the leading citizens’ who controlled the Commonwealth Government during the 1950-1970 eras?

Prospects in the 1960/70’s

The authorities made assumptions that natural mothers could not work. Employment was very high in this era and employment would have been easily achieved. The rule even back in the 1890/1900’s, offering alternatives allowing a mother to set herself up, was denied in the 1960/70’s. What a disgraceful indictment on politicians and adoption authorities. They took themselves back into the times prior to the 1890’s.

In the 1880’s, mothers were able to leave their child with older women, who had set themselves up as professional child minders. Society allowed this practice and young women these professional child minders would act as a ‘temporary measure’ until in time, the mother would be in a position to once again care for their child. How our modern society of the 1960’s slipped back in time.

PREGNANCY AND BIRTH

It is an enormous physical and emotional responsibility whilst pregnant. These are the moment, which you have been waiting for, and if your preparation is right, you will experience blissful relief immediately following the delivery of your baby. It can be one of the most memorable moments in your life.

Nothing can compare with the absolute elation and the sense of achievement at having come through one of the toughest test in nature – child birth. You become nature time – motherland.

FOSTER WELFARE DIVISION – Child Welfare Department

When the Adoption of Children's Act 1964 is proclaimed as from 1 January 1966, the division will have gradually increased functions in the adoption field. At present the work of the Division in this field is confined to the arrangement of adoption of wards that are available and suitable for that purpose and acting as guardian ad litem in other cases where so appointed by the court.

In 1964 Act the Division will have the additional responsibility jointly with approved Principle Adoption Agency of arranging the adoption of non wards and of exercising guardianship over those children pending their adoption. It will also be required to furnish reports to the court concerning adoption and will have responsibilities in respect to the approval of principle adoption agencies and the approval or otherwise of certain payments made in connexion with adoption.

Largely because of the increased work in the field the Foster Care and Adoption special section of the Children's Care Section will become a separate section of the division as from 1st July 1965.

DEATH OF AN INFANT

These authorities broke several laws and government legislations when they did not notify the natural mother of the death of her infant BEFORE an adoption order was granted.

Yes – surprised – well you should be and like me should be disgusted. A young infant dies at the early age of 3 months – his death is registered in the name on his birth certificate – mother being named (natural mother) – buried in a cemetery under an assumed name and his tombstone plaque shows a false name. Yes death index 1920-1986 clearly shows the infant's death and his mother's name. No not the assumed name. Is this acceptable? The world knows of his death – knows his mother's name – and the natural mother does not know. Her baby is buried as an adopted child. The Cemetery Legislation is clear on the death certificate and funeral and burial arrangements. These laws were broken. Who broke these laws?

(...) CFWB and the St Josephite Nuns Broadmeadows. Yes a Mass for Angels is held at the chapel at Broadmeadows – and still his natural mother does not know. 20 years pass (remember the world knows that this infant has passed on and the natural mother has not thought of a death) and his mother commences her search to come to an abrupt halt and be told he died at the age of 3 months.

She obtains all the information, visits his grave site and no where in the cemetery register of burials does her son's name appear. The death certificate is clear but the other records have been falsified. Why? They must answer to this.

Does the Government have a duty to investigate? The Attorney General does because several of the Government legislation Acts have been broken.

The State Coroner's Report of 1968 has gone missing. The Births, Deaths and Marriages Act say that a death must be registered within 30 days after a death. This little darling's death is not registered for 60 days. Even today during conversations

with the officer at the BD&M Office, he too is surprised at the length it has taken to register this death even in 1968.

Before the death certificate is proceeded with a birth certificate is required. How did (...) jump over so many hurdles illegal and nobody stop her? The foster parents knew that it was incorrect procedures. Why did they bury a little boy under an assumed name? He was not legally their child and would not legally be theirs until they applied to the court for adoption.

Under the Children's Act (...) and others have failed under the Children's Welfare Act by not responding in a proper and legal matter at the time of the baby's death.

This issue should be placed under a microscope and they be charged with 'not responded legally and for disregarding the natural mother's legal rights'.

Little James as I will refer to him, next of kin was his natural mother. Not (...) and even under the Guardianship Act which she was bound to, the death of an infant cannot be kept from a natural mother.

WOMEN'S RIGHTS

It is no longer acceptable to discuss women's rights as separate from human rights. Women were seen only as housewives, cooks, cleaners, mothers, bases woman role in life, women were there to support men. Women were to find satisfaction at home and life an average normal life.

In the 1950's television opened a new world to housewives. Advertisements showing new washing machines, happiness with fulfillment at home – films and advertising became a woman's world.

In the old world women were under a man's thumb, but in the mid 1950's things started to change with much opposition from the male gender.

The male domination culture was about to change and change forever.

FAMILY ASSISTANCE

It is important to understand that Family assistance categories were broken down into several areas

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Married | Deserted Wife of Prisoner Child not of Marriage |
| Unmarried Mothers | Single Deserted defacto Defacto of Prisoners |

It is interested to note "Child not of Marriage" category and 'defacto' categorised in 'unmarried'.

REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE OF ENQUIRY 1976 INTO Child Care Services in Australia – presented to Parliament 22 September 1976

In 1919 the principle that children should not be institutionalized on grounds of poverty alone was belatedly recognised in law and through the Maintenance of Children Act some categories poor parents became eligible to receive minimal funds to help support their children in their own care.

Social Welfare Act in 1960 was in many ways a landmark. It combined all the state's correctional and child welfare activities into one Department in a way which is unique and rare in other English speaking countries.

At the same time, the newly group Social Welfare Department was given a legislative mandate on which the funds of a comprehensive state wide family welfare system could be built.

Protection of Infant's Legislation part of the Social Welfare Act 1970, was first introduced late last century to reduce deaths among illegitimate and other unwanted infants and to eliminate baby farming. In its present form its value is doubtful and there appears to be strong argument for dispensing with it.

ADOPTION ORDER

Court hearing to endorse the adoption – the social worker was seen as an “upstanding Citizen” and her word was always believed by Solicitors and Judges. The excitement and joy of the adopting parents was top priority. Usually the adoption hearing was informal because the moment was filled only with joy. We were totally forgotten and they (judges) endorsed the conspiracy.

The Politicians also broke their oath to the Constitution as they did not uphold the law of their own legislation

“The laws were designed to guarantee the supremacy of Parliament”

Everyone is subject to the law and is to be dealt with.

MARRIAGE ACT

Until the 1 September 1963 the marriageable age was 14 for boys and 12 for girls. Since that date the ages have been increased to 18 and 16 respectively. Marriage Act 1961 Section 11.

RULE OF LAW

Rule of law is covered under International encyclopedia of Laws.

CROWN LANDS CONS. ACT 1913 Section 240 – still valid in 1970

Infancy in relation to contract and property 1969

Infant Relief Act 1874 (changed in 1958 to S.C. Act)

YOUNG MOTHERS

Young mothers under the age of 18 were protected under the Child Welfare Act and their exploitation was forbidden under the Social Welfare Act.

PTSD symptoms are associated with the anxiety of recalling the extremely stressful situation without means of coping.

Severity of the trauma – it is apparent controllability and predictability.

CHRISTIAN VISION

Christian vision is the pursuit of faith and truth. Catholic Church prided themselves on their superiority – their ideal of virginity was central to their belief.

Catholic Family Welfare Bureau was not recognised under the 1958 Adoption Act.

LAW



The Constitution is the law of the land and the profession of law is written on fairness and due process. Sadly the adversary system left behind truth. For a solicitor to decide on what actions are to be taken on his own 'personal morality' are grounds to be disbarred even today. To use as their own compass against unmarried mothers and their babies 'personal morality' is breaking the law. Abduction was and still is a crime and if Society's laws allowed such crimes in the 1950/1970 then society needs to re-examine itself.

No solicitor can act on his own conscious because he represents his client. If his client has committed a crime it is his ethical and moral duty to represent his client under the *fairness and due process of the law*. *If he is aware that his client is going to commit a crime and cause bodily harm to another person it was and still is their ethical and moral obligation to report such crimes.*

The solicitors who represented the past adoption agencies had no legal rights to act with moral superiority over a mother and her baby. They act on behalf of adoption agencies as referred to above and then acted for the adopting parents. They knew that crimes were being committed and under the ethical ruling of our law they were supposed to notify the authorities of these crimes.

Therefore they were co-conspirators to the abductions (baby farming) of newborn babies throughout the 1950/1970 era **breaking Constitutional law and International Law**.

Reading through the many submissions placed before the Commonwealth Senate Inquiry into Institutional Care to my utter amazement I read

“My involvement in the Methodist Babies' Home was at a time when those involved were convinced that they were doing something immensely important for some newly born babies and also for couples who for various reasons were unable to have children naturally.”

This person was a former (...) e and was a member of its admissions and adoption committee; the function of which was to receive newly born babies of unmarried mothers and to have them adopted into good Christian families' where they would be given love and care and the opportunity for a better life.

He further stated:

It is also worthy to note that the senior partner of (...) and a member of its admissions and adoptions committee. Quite clearly he too believed that what was being done was good, important and the right thing to do.

I RESPECT THE PRIVACY OF THESE TWO PEOPLE BUT THE ABOVE HIGHLIGHTS THE CONFLICT OF INTERESTS AND ROLE DOCTORS AND SOLICITORS PLAYED IN BABY FARMING – FORCED ADOPTIONS SCHEME.

When did forced Adoption practices cease?

Many experts state that adoption practices changed because unmarried mothers were able to receive a Commonwealth Supporting Parent Pension in 1973 because they kept their babies. **Well that is totally incorrect. Australian statistics show that there was no increase in Pensions to unmarried mothers under the age of 18 after the Supporting Parent Pension was introduced.**

Research shows that **forced adoption** practices were being closely examined as early as 1969 with the changes covering a wide spectrum of subjects mainly relating to Women's Affairs.

1. An organization was formed nationally "**National Council for Single Mothers and her Child**" in 1969 and their members became active in the pursuit of Single parents rights.

They stood up for the right of every child to know, be acknowledged by and have the financial support of both parents. At their annual conference, single mothers from Victoria, South Australia, Queensland and New South Wales attended together with the diverse groups (adoption agency workers, adoptive parents, foster parents, natural parents, adopted children, lawyers, doctors, representatives from State welfare departments and other important community groups).

This is clear evidence **that all parties to adoption** came together. **Forced adoptions was certainly on the downhill when all concerned met. Something was not right!!!! And if everything was alright why would then need to all come together? The Role this organization played from the late 1960's MUST BE recognized as their efforts have enabled issues to flow on until the present day culminating in this Senate Inquiry.**

2. **Royal Commission into Human Relationships August 1974**

The Commonwealth Government commissioned this very important Royal Commission adding to the changing fabric of forced adoptions.

3. **Ex-nuptial babies**

1974 Victoria's ex-nuptial children were recognized under Status of Children's Act and Inheritance Rights.

4. **Withdrawal of Government funding for Maternity Homes which resulted in the closure of the majority of them.**

5. **Births, Deaths and Marriage Act changed in 1971.**

6. **Father's Rights** commenced to be closely examined late 1960's resulting in the following being established:

Birth Certificate – A father's name could be included on the birth certificate with the permission of the mother at the time of birth. The baby would be given the surname of the mother and father i.e. Thomas Jones-Smith with the legal right of the child when reaching adulthood to choose either or both names her/himself.

The registration of the father's name at birth had nothing to do with any Maintenance Order. All that was required was the natural mother's permission who held guardianship of the baby. This was available to all natural parents but denied by the Social Workers – why? Because if the father's name had appeared on the birth certificate – they had another person to deal with and thus in more cases than not **NO ADOPTION** would have taken place.

The mother's maiden name and the baby father's surname would have been listed as the baby's surname i.e. Jones-Smith.

6. The television documentary produced by Anne Deveson in 1965 on unmarried mothers (aired Channel 7) together with the ABC coverage on Four Corners in 1970 of the plight of unmarried mothers.

7. **1977** - The formation of the Statute of Law Revision Committee that was formed in Victoria to consider the Adoption of Children Act 1964 with respect to "Access to Information" by natural parents.

Justices Just and Shillito of the County Court representing all their colleagues gave evidence once on March 8, 1978 and April 11, 1978.

Judge Just advised the committee that access to adoption records has **never been against the law** because adoption agencies records are not court records. It is only court records that access cannot be gained and those held by the adoption agencies can be accessed.

- 8. Sexuality – 1968** - women started to stand up against the male dominated world and started to learn about their own sexuality.

And many further changes were taking place from the late 1960's thus the reason the **forced adoptions** ceased **not because of the Commonwealth Government directly taking control of Welfare funds.**

Effect of an Adoption Order is final and conclusive. Only an Adoption Order can extinguish once and for all the parents' "rights, duties and obligations" in regard to her/their baby.

Thousands of unmarried mothers' brain washed to believe that they had no further rights after the 30 revocation period. **All mothers had parental rights up until the court granted an application for adoption to another family.**

I HAD A LEGAL RIGHT TO APPEAR IN THE COURT TO STOP THE ADOPTION APPLICATION FROM PROCEEDING? The absence of that advice is a further crime committed against my baby, my fiancée and myself under the Commonwealth Constitution.



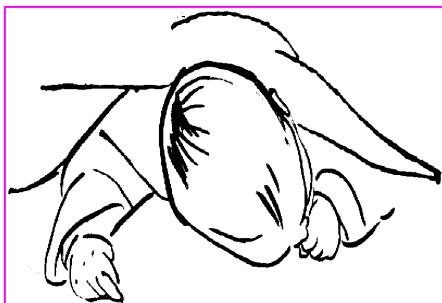
What happened to Unmarried mothers and their baby's justice in the court room?
Truth without justice is injustice.

Photo of little toes honoring all darling babies separated from their mothers at birth.



We are talking about a tiny human being deprived of her/his own mother immediately after birth.

THE TRUTH – State of Victoria



Today I mark the 47th anniversary of the birth of my first daughter and the denial of my motherhood that would have lit our road to freedom like a burning meteor, shining brighter than the system that had sought to minimise my humanity, along with that of the people whose yearnings I have fought for. To celebrate my submission is to invoke a vision that has over the years inspired all freedom loving mothers decisively to defeat the monster and realise the dream of truth to be heard.

Natural mothers held parental rights until the day of the adoption order. Under the 1965 Adoption Act a Guardian appointed had no effect upon the parental relationship as such and is concerned only with the immediate possession, control and upbringing of the infant. The revocation period of 30 days for a mother's consent to an adoption taken under duress and undue influence was invalid then and still is today.

Under the 1958 Adoption Act natural mother's permission for medical treatment of their baby before the adoption was to be obtained - this was never carried out a further breach of the Child Welfare Act. Maternal Stress – our babies were taken from our bodies and they needed to be held by their mother because the somatosensory system of touch is the most developed fetal sense at birth. I nurtured my baby for 9 months and they separated us without permission and hide her from my within the same hospital walls. Can I recall the event – I don't need to recall it – it has been **with me every day for the past 47 years. It is the thread that weaves its way throughout the fabric of my life.**

Under the 1965 Adoption Act as guardian was appointed so that a natural mother's permission for medical treatment was no longer needed to be obtained. Under all Adoption Acts, a natural parent, sibling or relative has the right to apply to the court for custody of the baby at the same time that an adoption application was being discussed. FACT. Natural mothers were never informed of this and I received personal confirmation of this legal point on the day when a relative and her husband went to court to have their adoption application heard and officially endorsed in 1970 and 1972 respectively.

Even though they had both their babies for the previous 12 months they were in fear and trepidation as they traveled to the court that the natural mother or relative may also appear in court.



MY FINANCEE AND I MARRIED AND OUR BABY SHOULD HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO OUR ARMS as per the Commonwealth Marriage Act. I tired numerous times to have our daughter returned to us but was always threatened “*Go away I will call the police*”. How naïve was I – I should have said “*call them*”. She was our daughter and not the daughter of the prospective adoptive parents and should have been reared with her natural parents and natural siblings.

Our daughter should never have lost her natural heritage and her children (today) should never have been deprived of their natural heritage. After our marriage we had two more daughters and reared our daughters in a caring and loving environment. Sadly though our marriage ended some 14 years later as the loss of our first daughter had woven its way through the fabric of my emotional life and living in silence (just get on with it) took its toil on our relationship. I have never been able to enter into another relationship as my grief, pain and suffering still circles my life thus the reason why I have stood up and fought for the rights of natural mothers and their babies. **The truth is important to so many. When I was reconnected with my daughter some 30 years later – it was time to let my other two daughters know about their sister. They have found it difficult to understand the ‘secrecy’ I kept from them and the brain washing techniques that were used on me at the time of the birth of my first daughter – their sister. The truth to my other daughters brought estrangement between us all – so from my experience I am not sure whether I did the right thing or not by releasing the truth from within me to them.**

It is possible the Senate Inquiry may bring peace again finally to not only my daughters but mothers and their other adult children that have also been affected by the past atrocities and injustices with the separation of a mother and her baby at birth.



The door on the building where my daughter was being held against my wishes. I knocked on this door on two occasions – first time had it closed in my face – second time I got half way down the passage but was confronted by a stern person and ordered off the premises. I told the person I was here to take my baby home and her reply was “if you do not leave I will call the police”.

I was terrified and still suffering from post traumatic stress so I turned around and ran out and down the long drive way. I wanted my baby but they refused to give her to me.



This is a photo of the nursery which was at the

rear of the building but could only be entered through the ‘front door’.

Photos taken 2003 when I revisited the premises. My memories were that there were a lot of rose bushes and when I visited in 2003 I turned around as I walked away from the door and yes there was the rose garden.



The Rose Garden in front of the building.



Another view of the door that was between my daughter and me.

*“Adoption is an option because society has made it legally available and its legal availability in turn, represents the **assumption** that being an unmarried mother is unfortunate and certainly not a condition to be supported ... never mind encouraged”. (Half a Million Women 1960 page 17)*

1958 Adoption Act- the Early Legislative Period.

The 1958 Adoption Act laid down no regulations to govern the work of arrangement of adoptions but the legal aspects were covered by the Adoption of Children Rules. The Government was directly responsible for a structure ensuring that a comprehensive service was provided of a high standard and to monitor that all legalities were adhered to.

“One of the difficulties under the 1958 Act is that the child, unless a ward of the State, remains under the guardianship of his natural parents until the Adoption Order, is granted. Thus adopting parents are in difficulties if the child requires urgent medical treatment or like, before the child is legally adopted”. (Australian Journal of Social Workers pages 6-9 November 1965 – Esther Phillips, Officer in Charge Foster Care and Adoption Section, Family Welfare Social Welfare Department Victoria.)

“Under the 1958 Act, the consent of ‘any person liable to contribute to the support of the infant’ was also necessary. (This was deleted from the 1964 Adoption Act and onwards). Although the consent of the putative father of an illegitimate child is not required he is a person whose views may be heard by the Court in determining whether or not in all the circumstances to make an Adoption Order.” (Ref Adoption Application No. 2 (1963) All 1082)

This is very valuable evidence as the Court was informed that the natural father **did have the right to have his views heard by the Court.** So why didn't the Judge uphold the law? With so many adoption applications heard during the 1950-1970 period surely the Judges must have queried why no application had any consent from the natural father. Natural fathers did apply to the court on numerous occasions are quoted throughout submission and copies are available at the Law Library, Melbourne University. The question again – why did the Judges before hearing an adoption application (in camera) query this legal point?

“In Castie Connubri Pope Pius XI declared

“the life of mother and child is equally sacred and no one has the power, not even the public authority to separate the two”.

Why did all the Government authorities partake in such illegal and unethical practices and separate mother and baby at birth when so much was written that it was not the illegal and unethical.

The Honorable Arthur Rylah in introducing the 1964 Model Uniform Adoption Act Bill to Victorian Parliament stated:

“The Bill seeks to discourage what has come to be known as ‘baby farming’ by providing heavy penalties for trafficking in children for adoption and in the

arrangements of adoption". (page 8 Regulatory Impact Statement 1997 – Victorian Government)

Baby farming – The Honorable Arthur Rylah and other politicians knew what was happening to unmarried mothers and their babies under the Victorian 1958 Adoption Act (including me) and they needed to stop the baby farming but the problem in Society of infertility still needed to be addressed.

*“There should be more human understanding of unwed mothers and their child and we should provide them with real help – foster care would be beyond the financial resources of the Catholic Family Welfare Bureau.”
(Father Eric Perkins Director of CFWB “Advocate” 13 June 1958).*



GUARDIAN v GUARDIANSHIP

The definition and misconception regarding guardian v guardianship in the Adoption Acts must be corrected as it is a very important breach of the law as natural parents, relatives and siblings were denied their human rights.

“The mothers of an illegitimate child is recognised

By the Adoption Act as having the full status of a parent of child

Born in wedlock. Only the most grave and weighty

Considerations would justify a court in destroying the natural link between

A child and its mother against her will.”

(Murray (1954) 55S7 (NSW (88)

Adoption agencies and government officials did not and I stress did not have guardianship rights. For them to gain guardianship rights our babies needed to be made State Wards and this never happened.

*Reference Transcript 19 May 1976 Hon Justice Harrise in the matter of the Social Welfare Act 1958 of the Marriage Act 1958. **This case was heard under Matrimonial Miscellaneous Causes.***

The Judge advised the officer of the Royal Women’s hospital adoption agency she was only the guardian of the baby. This case also included Queen Elizabeth hospital for mothers and babies situated at 110 Keppel Street, Carlton, Victoria.

*This case was brought about by a young mother trying to stop the adoption proceedings of her baby. **The Court stopped the proceedings and immediately placed the baby into the care of the young mother’s own mother.***

The hospital and home refused to stop adoption proceedings on the mother’s request but they failed and were advised by the Judge that they were only ‘guardian’ and did not have legal rights to ignore the mother’s request prior to the adoption proceedings.

*This case gives a clear understanding that natural mothers had parental rights right up until the adoption application was granted by the Court and **WERE DENIED THEIR RIGHTS** but the Court corrected the Royal Women’s Hospital attitude and illegal attitudes.*

Court Hearing 1st June 1976 before Hon Justice Kaye – This case was about a young father (aged 19 years) who requested that his son be placed into the custody of his mother. This was a late application before adoption proceedings commenced as the father had only become aware of the birth of his son and the natural mother had signed a consent form.

Amongst Court records there are numerous Court hearings i.e. against the Mercy Maternity Child Care Services and Royal Women's Hospital.

ILLEGITIMATE

Why was it so important during the period 1950-1970 for illegitimate children to be a focus in society? Infertility that was an epidemic in Australia.

One of the first arrivals in Victoria in 1840 was Andrew and Georgina McCrae registered as quality citizens even though she was classed as 'illegitimate'. He was improvident yet they were both accepted in Society. Our forefathers never distinguished then so why did they in 1950-1970 period

On Tuesday 4 April 2000 Commonwealth Senator John Herron made an extraordinary personal revelation to Parliament when he admitted he once actively participated in separating mothers from their children.

"I was personally responsible for separating children from their mothers" Senator Herron said. "Over 30 years ago I was asked to take in expectant unmarried mothers from the country into my family so that those children would not have to be aborted" he told Parliament. "My wife and I took in 23 of those girls, wonderful girls, who had their children adopted out voluntarily and so I was part of that" "In those days there was a stigma of illegitimacy. That was that era." At the time Senator Herron believed what he was doing was beneficial to both mother and baby. They were the values and that was the morality of the time." (Senator admits to separating families by Kerry Taylor Wednesday 5 April 2000 – see Hansard for Tuesday 4 April 2000).

I leave the above for the reader to form his/her own conclusions. So many players.

Under the 1958 Adoption Act it was the common practice to appoint a Priest or Minister to be guardian ad litem for the infant several weeks before the adoption application was presented to the Court. Under the 1964 Adoption Act it was the duty of the Director-General or Principal Officer of the Adoption Agency to take full responsibility for the care of the infant. It was also his duty to give evidence at the adoption hearing that all aspects of the adoption act had been carried out legally.

Such persons must also be held responsible because under the Psychologists Practice Act, Social Workers who filed a report for his attention could not have advised that they had counseled the unmarried mother. Under the Adoption Act it was a legal requirement for such counseling to take place therefore **the guardian ad litem and the Director General/Principal Officer LIED to the courts.**

MEDICAL TREATMENT DURING BIRTH

Violation of article 25 (2) Article 2 and article 7 of the UDHR because unmarried mothers were treated different to married women.

Medical and nursing staff present at the birth violated article 5 of the UDHR and customary international law.degrading treatment

The mother's drug chart shows that she was heavily drugged and the birth was classified normal.

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Baby was born | 15 July (year withheld) |
| Baby examined by Doctor for | |
| Assessment for adoption | 17 July |
| Baby leaves hospital with | |
| Prospective adoptive parents | 20 July |
| Mother leaves hospital | 21 July |
| Consent signed | 25 August |

It is important that members of the Senate Committee carefully digest the above dates. No consent signed, baby handed over to prospective adoptive parents 5 days after birth. Mother drugged until baby leaves hospital **AND THAT IS KIDNAPPING under the Crimes Act.** **This young mother was 15 years of age and her own mother 2 days after the birth of her grandson, tried to gain access to him. As her daughter was under the age of 16 she had the legal responsibilities for her daughter therefore the consent her daughter signed 4 weeks after the baby's birth is invalid.**

This young girl never got over the loss of her baby or the damage that had been done to her physical body from the heavy doses of drugs that were given to her immediately after the birth of her son. Her mother (now deceased) fought unsuccessfully for 20 years for the Victorian Government to hold an Inquiry into past adoption practices. This grandmother stood up for all grandmothers and the Victorian Government are in the possess of very in depth research, especially on the administering of drugs to an unmarried mother that she undertook right up until her sudden death 5 years ago. She was reunited with her beautiful daughter – who sadly passed away at the very young age of 24 years of age.

1984 ADOPTION ACT VICTORIA

“The new adoption act was legislative culmination of attempting

To substantially reform and RE-ENACT the law in relation to adoption but not merely in one area but across the Board and in so doing provide a comprehensive legislative basis for adoption in Victoria. (J. Galvin Department of Prosecution AAT November 1988)

This was one of the most comprehensive reviews of the adoption act because the then Premier John Cain stood up and believed things were not right thus the law was RE-ENACTED. That speaks for itself. His own father had been the Premier of Victoria John Cain Snr prior to the Henry Bolte Liberal Party's Government who was Premier for approx. 20 years during which time **adoptions doomed in the State of**

Victoria. Whilst it is only an assumption, the Labor Government both State and Federal changed the **baby farming scheme** that was put in place during the Liberal Government's Federal and State reigns. The treatment of migrant mothers in 1951 also happened during the reign of a Liberal Federal Government.

Section 51 (XXI) of the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act gave Commonwealth Parliament the legislative power to pass the Marriage Act. Section 89 of the Act legitimated by subsequent marriage of such a child was legitimated.

Section 89 of the Marriage Act was constitutionally challenged in the High Court by the Attorney General of Victoria for the State of Victoria v the Commonwealth of Australia 107 CLR R529. By majority of 4 to 3 the High Court declared that Section 89 was a valid law.

COURT RULING

The institution of adoption operates only when a child's natural parent/s is for some reason unwilling, unable and unfit to bring the child up themselves (A v C3 (no 1), 1955 VLR340).

*“...circumstances must be grave which will
Induce the court to make an order excluding
The mother of an illegitimate child from all rights
In respect to such child.”*

Other important Court rulings in favor of natural mothers which conclusively proves that a natural mother had guardianship rights up until the time of the hearing of an adoption application.

Ex prate H (1963 80 W.N. (N.S.W.) 732 Full Court

Re O(1964) I All ER786, isp at 780

Re G (DM) (1962) 2 All ER7 46

Re C (MA) an infant (1966) I All ER838

My fiancée and I were willing, able and fit to bring up our baby ourselves. We had the support of my father, grandmother and other relatives but our daughter WAS KIDNAPPED NEVER TO BE FOUND until 15 years ago. My father and aunty demanded that my baby be returned to me when they visited me in the Queen Victoria Hospital Melbourne, BUT THEY REFUSED MY NEXT OF KIN – MY FATHER.

My father never recovered from the emotional trauma losing his grand daughter and suddenly passed away several months later at 43 years of age. The death of my father is on the hands of those who KIDNAPPED my daughter as well as any other person who was involved in her adoption. Solicitors, Catholic Church and Judges

(Rule of Law) will face their reckoning for the death of my father – one day – together with the kidnapping of my daughter.

ADOPTION

Adoption is a violent act of political and aggression towards a woman who has supposedly offended the sexual morosely committing the unforgivable act of not suppressing her sexuality and therefore not keeping it for trading purposes through traditional marriage.

It was believed a grave crime had been committed for she threatened the fabric of our society. A natural mother was stripped of here child by a variety of subtle and not so subtle maneuvers and then brutally abandoned.

Natural mothers were swindled out of their baby by emotional manipulation by social workers and financial deprivation by Commonwealth Government.

Adoption by Margaret Kornetzek published Pietnam England 1959

“Yet behind every adoption stories is a mother who far from giving her child away indifferently and callously, thinks of the loss of her baby as a punishment for wrong doing and realizes that her only chance of making amends would be to give her baby the chance of a happy life with other parents. Such mothers do not forget the baby they bore. One mother wrote years later after the parting “the pain is everlasting.”

This was in 1959 and it was known that mother’s pain is everlasting.

Adoption in Australia is based on the same principles as American slavery – separation of mother and child for the betterment of the richer folk.

Adoption Act does not “Act” on its own. Enactment of the Adoption Act is in partnership with other Statute Law (Government Acts) i.e. Marriage Act, Birth, Deaths and Marriage Registration Legislation and Age of Majority Act etc.

COMMONWEALTH FAMILY LAW COURT

The Family Law Court did not have the jurisdiction to hear any maintenance cases in 1950-1970 period but regardless of whether they did or didn’t in my case, it was not necessary for me to apply for maintenance as my fiancée and I wanted our baby.

This changed in 1975 (effective 5 January 1976) to deal with additional areas of family law that had previously been dealt with by State Legislation. This included changes re ex-nuptial children re custodial rights and maintenance.

Federal and State Attorney Generals on 30th June and 1st July 1977 meet to discuss problems arising out of the division between Commonwealth and State Family Law. Particularly the Victorian Government was reluctant to transfer responsibilities under Family Law to the Commonwealth Government as well as transferring to Commonwealth Government the responsibilities for allocating ‘pensions’ and ‘allowances’.

NATURAL MOTHERS

Natural Mothers are entitled to feel bitter at the needless snuffing out of the pulsating life of a mother by small-minded human beings who had arrogated to themselves the absolute right to determine, with impunity, who should qualify to be considered and treated as a human being. Every citizen has the democratic rights of the Constitution and the Rule of Law. Nobody's life is an ordinary story but what ever the person's story is they deserve to be respected and given their democratic rights.



“The Women’s Hospital in Melbourne method used on single mothers relied on denial. If a single mother had decided on adoption, then she would get over losing her baby more quickly if the baby did not exist. The fetus became a large lump that had to be removed, if it never became a baby she saw, touched, held, caressed, fed with her own breasts, then perhaps she would recover more quickly. Allowing her fetus to become her baby, even for just a few minutes, would only make it harder for her to put the experience and her moral lapse behind her.”

The Royal Women’s Hospital history was written entitled “Sex and Sufferings” by Janet McCallum and on page 274 the above is described as to how unmarried mothers were treated. The above words are despicable but give a clear understanding to the reader how unmarried mothers were so inhumanly treated. During my pregnancy it was passed off that I was suffering from a tumor in my stomach and not surprisingly I have suffered cancerous tumors throughout my body since the birth of my daughter some 47 years ago.

The view of an unmarried mother:

- Lack of respect for authority (her parents and others)
- Broke the simple rules of life
- She was a disgrace and a shame to society
- She was trash and a hore
- She was a slut

The grief, pain and suffering an unmarried mother has endured include loneliness, anger and guilt as a result of the torture she received. Child Psychology and Sociology of the day believed things should not be complicated. Circumstances were judged on ‘legal proceedings’ and not facts – certainly not emotions.

Torture of the authorities

- Bring her back into line
- We cannot is corporal punishment against these girls so we will do the next best thing – divide and conquer their bodies.
- Let’s teach them their lessons early
- They were born good but have gone astray
- Somebody has to draw the line

What did my fiancée and I do wrong? We were punished because we crossed a line that had been drawn by the ‘uprighteous persons of society following the 2nd world war.’ Oops we had sex outside marriage. We were then regarded as misfits and had to be dealt with appropriately. We became a meaningless list of names – we were innocent of no crime but caught up in a social cleansing that had no regard for the Commonwealth Constitution or Constitutional laws.

SEPARATE DEVELOPMENT

A mother’s life was defined by the Commonwealth Government’s reality of “separate development”, but many mothers have come into their own maturity, the national struggle for truth is no longer in retreat, the destruction of the organised structures of the systematic decapitation of mothers is over.

Using Steve Biko (South African activist fighting for his people who was tortured and killed by white police officers) words:

“I have lived all my conscious life in the framework of institutionalised separate development.

My friendships, my love, my education, my thinking and every other facet of my life have been carved and shaped within the context of separate development”

describes my life. Through the Inquiry mothers can now manage to outgrow some of the things the system brainwashed them with because we are the **truth**.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

The layout and wording on the original birth application form and the birth certificate is a further unconscious action by the Birth Registrars who were also included in the ‘plans’ to take a newborn baby from their mother. The wording on the original application form was clear but those in authority ignored the legal document requirements and their responsibilities to lawfully fill this document out correctly. Why did the Registrar of Births accept such illegal documents? In the 1990’s the Victorian Government corrected this illegal action allowing natural mothers to have the original birth certificate of their baby corrected with the father’s name added with his permission. My daughter’s original birth certificate was re-written with her father’s name and details included with his permission. Further the allegation that I was raped (excused placed on all papers) was amended under the Freedom of Information to include details that ‘parents were engaged and later married’.

EMOTIONAL AND PSYCHOLOGICAL DAMAGE

The emotional and psychological damage of these policies continues, and will be felt for the rest of mother’s life. It has become a generational grief and a natural mother who had her baby removed in the labor ward and never seen again, can never recover.

All State Governments were well aware of the damage they were inflicting on unmarried mothers.

PAPERS PRESENTED TO PARLIAMENT

30 July 1976 – J.D. Norgard

Chairman, Committee of Inquiry into Child Care Services in Victoria (Vol 3 1976-1978)

Presented to Honorable the Premier of Victoria R.J. Hamer M.L.A.

“The adoption field is continuously monitored by a State Level adoptions Conference. As a somewhat restrictive membership with the result that an insufficient variety of view points are every represented. Membership should be extended to include representatives of all parties in adoption proceedings including the medical and legal profession, adoptive parents and parents who offer children for adoption. Persons who have themselves been adopted, should also be included”

SEPARATION OF MOTHER AND BABY AT BIRTH

The role of the Commonwealth Government of Australia is clear in these criminal activities between 1940-1970 periods. Submissions from all individuals and institutions making a statement on the role of the health care sector in human rights abuses through this period including doctors and other health care professionals "in perpetrating, colluding with and preventing human rights violations of the past" must be believed. Submissions from Health sector representatives hopefully will be received together with organisations that were party to forced adoptions.

The failure of the Commonwealth Government together with the Australian Medical Association responsibilities must be investigated to include the conduct of the doctors who treated unmarried mothers throughout their pregnancy. The Australian Medical Association was part of **the Commonwealth Government** during the period under investigation and they are all guilty of professional misconduct in their treatment of unmarried mothers and their babies with the endorsement of the Commonwealth Government.

Further, the **Commonwealth Serum Laboratory** was constituted by the Commonwealth Government during the period under investigation, and the Commonwealth Government turned a blind eye when babies born to unmarried mothers were ‘swooped up’ at birth and used for drug experimentations by the CSL. Many baby deaths occurred due to the Commonwealth Government’s funding of these experimentations. Those babies that survived were later adopted once they had passed their ‘use by date’ for drug experimentations by the Commonwealth Government through the CSL. Babies were used and administered **CONTAMINATED** polio vaccine **WITH THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT.**

This was uncovered during my research and published in The Age newspaper in October 2004. The then Health Minister Tony Abbott (now Leader of the Opposition) denied that such actions took place and stated that if babies were used in drug experimentations **IT WAS FOR THE BETERMENT OF EVERYBODY.**

The Senate Inquiry into Institutional Care had this disturbing evidence presented to them and outlined it in their final report. **MANY BABIES BORN TO UNMARRIED MOTHERS USED AS GUINEA PIGS.** I understand that I am repeating these words, but that is because I see it still as a very serious issue that has not been addressed by the **COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT** who are totally responsible for these actions. Commonwealth Serum Laboratory was under the Commonwealth Government umbrella of responsibilities.

It is important that the truth be heard from mothers and their babies and not from all the past employed researchers to go through their archives to assist in the drawing up of the final conclusion.

The definitions of abuse (mistreatment, cruelty, ill treatment, violence, neglect, exploitation), ethical (moral, principled, right, fair, decent, just) obligations (compulsion, duty, responsibility, requirement) of health professionals and links between health professional ethics and human rights is clear within the truth of events.

The outcome of this Inquiry must detail the opportunities to recruit doctors who are willing to provide free medical care and advice to survivors who are in need of ongoing medical assistance. The medical profession also must commit to healing the wounds of the past as their colleagues played a major role in the separation of mother and baby at birth.

What needs to be carefully examined is the question:

**What do you think has become of the women and children who
Were separated at birth?"**

The committee cannot translate in the context of our current realities, but the truth delivered by the mothers who had their babies taken from them at birth.

MY RESEARCH

In what now seems to be a long time ago, (1940-1970) during the years of unmarried mothers exile, I have had the rare privilege to research and reflect on the ideas that today that are being fought for, how and with whom 'they' strived to realise their ideals, what impact these actions have had on our country and people, and what the cruel and untimely death of motherhood. The unique opportunity for the truth to be told can be provided by the many mothers that have remained standing to fight for justice. These mothers believed that the truth must be told truthfully to all Australian people and in memory of those mothers that are no longer with us to stand and speak the truth.

In his great epic work, "The Rise of Shaka", the late Mazisi Kunene says:

**"Those who feast on the grounds of others
often are forced into gestures of friendship they do not desire.
But we are the generation that cannot be bypassed.**

**We shall not be blinded by gifts from feasts.
With our own fire we shall stand above the mountains, as the sun.”**

Our souls are surely sweetened by the certain knowledge that the high principles of truth and equality through the determination of many mothers relentlessly to sustain the struggle for truth, thus once again giving birth to the reality of today’s free and democratic Australia.

As it must, our commemoration of the death of mothers who cannot speak to the Inquiry resonates with heroism, a steely human resolve and a remarkable **vision for human freedom**, the antithesis of the intolerable actions in our country which the whole world must characterise as a crime against humanity.

The truth cannot be reversed. It may be surrounded with enemies and mothers do not need to apologise for their actions because it is true that the systems have also produced throughout Australia a number of mothers who are not aware that their babies are still alive.

Commonwealth Government has oppressed mothers but they are still mothers. Many mothers were reduced to an obliging shell and accepted what she regarded as the inevitable position – completely defeated, drowning in grief but mothers are no longer oppressed.

I include WEB du Bois words explaining how mothers have felt in the past:

“Between me and the other world there is ever an unasked question: unasked by some through feelings of delicacy; by others through the difficulty of rightly framing it. All, nevertheless, flutter round it. They approach me in a half-hesitant sort of way, eye me curiously or compassionately, and then, instead of saying directly, ‘How does it feel to be a problem?...’

The following story told by Du Bois (Black South African) I believe also captures how mothers have felt in the past.

“Then it dawned upon me with a certain suddenness that I was different from the others; or like, mayhap, in heart and life and longing, but shut out from their world by a vast veil...

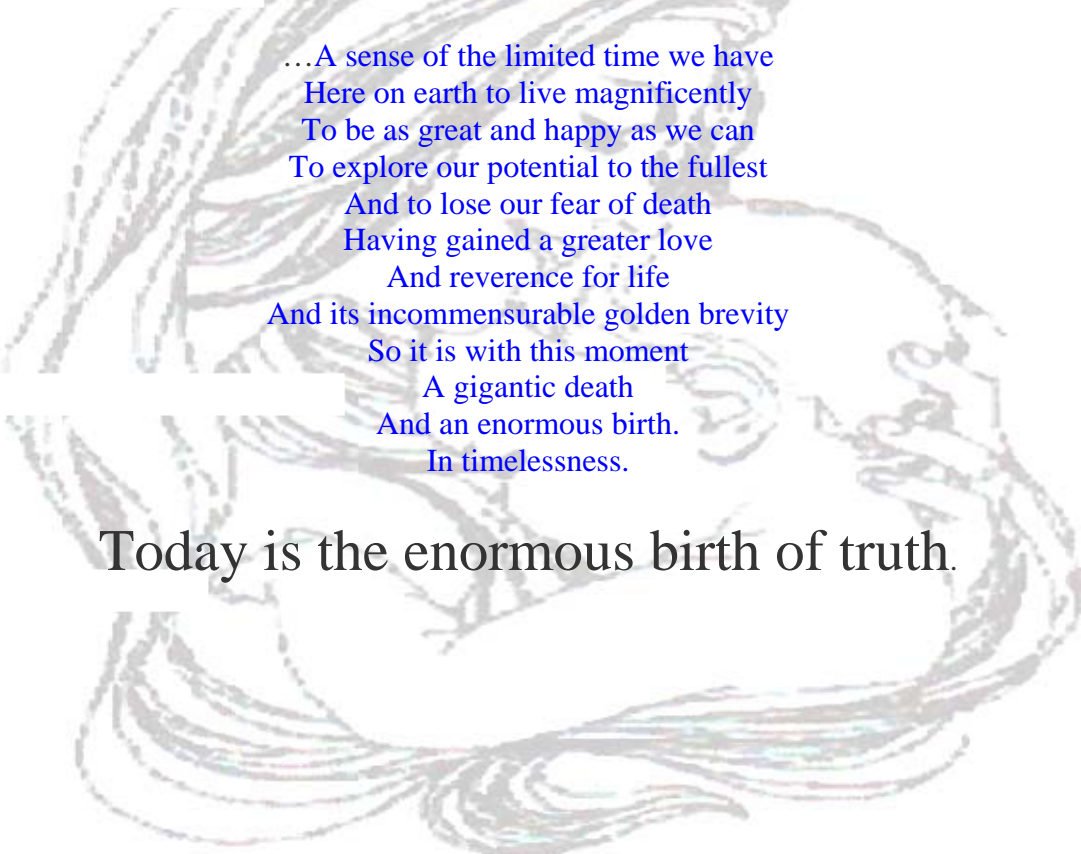
“With other black boys the strife was not so fiercely sunny: their youth shrunk into tasteless sycophancy, or into silent hatred of the pale world about them and mocking distrust of everything white; or wasted itself in a bitter cry, ‘Why did God make me an outcast and a stranger in mine own house?’ ‘
The shades of the prison-house closed round about us all: walls strait and stubborn to the whitest, but relentlessly narrow, tall, and unscaleable to sons of night who must plod darkly on in resignation, or beat unavailing palms against the stone, or steadily, half hopelessly, watch the streak of blue above.

Mothers experienced a peculiar sensation, this double-consciousness, this sense of always looking at one’s self through the eyes of others, of measuring one’s soul by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity.”

With the inspiration of the late Steve Biko life I understand that to attain our freedom mothers have to stand up against the notion that we are a problem, that we should no longer merely cry out – ‘Why did God make me an outcast and a stranger in mine own house?’ That we should stop looking at ourselves through the eyes of others, and measuring our souls by the tape of a world that looks on in amused contempt and pity.

Steve Biko wrote: “At the heart of this kind of thinking is the realisation that the most potent weapon in the hands of the oppressor is the mind of the oppressed.”

Unmarried mothers’ minds were oppressed. Once the latter has been so effectively manipulated and controlled by the oppressor as to make the oppressed believe that an unmarried mother is a liability to society, then there will be nothing the oppressed can do that will really scare the powerful masters. Unmarried mothers during the 1940-1970 belonged to a generation that cannot be bypassed any longer. We must listen carefully to what the poet, Ben Okri, said in his “Mental Flight”.

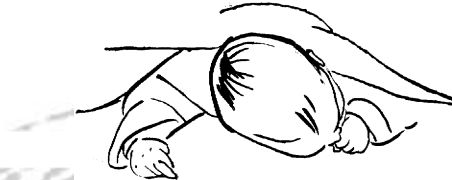


...A sense of the limited time we have
Here on earth to live magnificently
To be as great and happy as we can
To explore our potential to the fullest
And to lose our fear of death
Having gained a greater love
And reverence for life
And its incommensurable golden brevity
So it is with this moment
A gigantic death
And an enormous birth.
In timelessness.

Today is the enormous birth of truth.

MY DAUGHTER.

In November 1988 I met with (...) (...) to discuss my records from the Queen Victoria Hospital. Also present at this meeting was their solicitor. They referred to the 1960/1970's as the old days. (...) believed Social Workers were acting on behalf of my mother as I was under age and that as legal guardian had the right to say what happened to my life and my baby's life.



I enlightened (...) that my mother had no legal rights over my child. He said that doctors acted on the above assumption. When shown a Neo Natal report, (...) agreed and endorsed that the notation re "fit" or "unfit" for adoption was the procedure carried out by doctors. **He confirmed that there was a procedure within the hospital to separate mother and child immediately after birth as the main concern was to prevent bonding between mother and child.**

My daughter was legally, morally and ethically my own child. I was not an incubator for an infertile couple but was treated as one.

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT MARRIAGE ACT

My fiancée and I married and under the Marriage Act

14b A minor born illegitimate whose parents subsequently married each other is the legitimate child of his parents.

The Commonwealth Government once again failed us, because our daughter should have been returned to us upon our marriage. Our baby once again taken from us a second time. The general decline in the crude marriage is evident since **1946** the peak year of post war marriages when the rate was 10.57. (Australian Bureau of Statistics). So whilst the birth rate increased of unmarried mothers the marriage rate declined throughout the same period.

The Commonwealth Government was responsible for all legislation including

Acts Interpretation Act 1901 – 1973

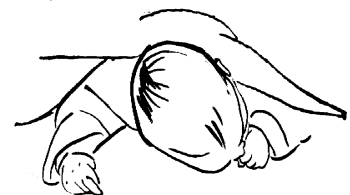
Statute Law Revision Act 1973

Crimes Act 1914-1966 (amended by the Crime Act 1973)

Law Officers Act 1964-1968

Marriage Act 1961-1966

State Grants 1927-1950



My daughter and I deserved the protection of the Commonwealth Government.

REFERENCES

SOCIAL SERVICES ACT 1947-1973 Act No 26 1947

Social Services (No 3) 1973 No 48 of 1973. To amend the Social Services Act 1947-1972 as amended by the Social Service Act 1973 and the Social Service Act (No 2) 1973 - Social Services Act 1973 assented to 16 March 1973

Inserted Part IV AAA Supporting Mother's Benefits 83AAA

Supporting Mother means a woman (whether married or unmarried) who

(a) has the custody, care and control of a child.

LAWYERS SOCIAL WORKERS AND FAMILIES

Stephanie Charlesworth, J Neville Turner, Lynne Foreman (Ref State Library 344.940.176CHA)

Failure to be aware of the legal requirement if their actions, is clearly no defense at all.

Natural mothers were used as sensitive interchange between laws. Social workers and other actions were effective by knowing the law. They have omitted to take account of the legal structures and processes which both constrain and facilitate the resolution of personal problems.

Every professional task carried out by a social worker has the accompanying legal responsibility that it must be performed to a certain standard of care

(See Rea Solicitor (1912) 1KB302 at 312 and ex parte Meagher (1919) 19SR (NSW) 433 at 442

this specifies the need for moral integrity and rectitude of character.

Legal standards for the social worker are clearly defined in the Adoption Act and their actions ensure public criticism of shoddy or destructive practices.

The social workers are answerable for departures from acceptable practices/standards if these standards result in harm to clients. In common with all other professions, social workers can be liable for professional negligence.

Procedural ignorance – social workers had statutorily defined rules in relation to the legal structure.. The task of a social worker was to enable natural

mothers to take charge of their own lives and make informed decisions about where they are going, or want to go. Due to the natural mother's lack of knowledge at the time, social workers never had claims made against them on grounds of inferior practice.

Codes of ethics referred to desirable standards of practices, or professional or moral obligations towards clients, which members of an Association approve and agree to observe. Social workers relied for guidance on common law and a code of ethics provided by their professional association – the Australian Association of Social Workers (See AASW Code of Ethics)

A natural mother's right of self determination involved a requirement that there be no hidden agendas on the part of the social worker. CFWB failed to fulfill statutory requirements and failed to observe guidelines which are the basis of its funding. The Josephite Nuns also received Government funding, thus they were bound by statutory requirements. In the past most non Government agencies charged a sliding scale of fees for services.

SOCIAL WORKERS

“The unmarried mother to be is such a damaged personality, and all who are involved in her case have a responsibility to know the psychological reason behind such pregnancies. We have to understand her particular inner conflict, the emotional problems which are part of her unhappy state including most probably unique reactions to guilt”. (Mary Lewis Social Worker Catholic Family Welfare Bureau Sydney – 9th National Conference Proceedings – Australian Association of Social Workers Adelaide August 1965 pgs 103-114)

Natural mothers were of all types and all social groups. They were not low life human beings. The members of the Senate Committee only need to look at the mothers who are endeavoring to bring the TRUTH out of the closet and into the world. Are any of these mothers' prostitutes or low in morals and ethics? I think not.

Social Workers did not refer natural mothers to a Psychologist for counseling and they themselves did not have the qualifications to undertake it nor were they allowed to give counseling. See below.. The above comments are despicable and gives a clear indication where these so called 'professional workers' minds were sitting towards unmarried mothers. They certainly inflicted grief, loss and psychological damage on unmarried mothers.

“If we care, we listen for those voices which express sorrow and pain as well as celebration and triumph, but in the end the ethical possibilities of caring practices lie in privileging those who express hurt. The need to let suffering speak, then, is not only the condition of all TRUTH but the very corner stone of care as an ethical approach to adoption which has the no violation of others as its goal”. (Ethical Issues in Adoption – Dr. Trevor Jordan Ba. BD, PhD, Lecturer in Applied Ethics School of Humanities Queensland University of Technology – paper delivered at the 6th Australian Conference on Adoption 1997).

Whilst much propaganda has been written in the past that unmarried mothers were counseled that is incorrect because Social Workers were unable to counsel unmarried mothers not only in Victoria but all States. As Social Workers were not able to

counsel unmarried mothers in the 1950-1970 period it is further evidence that Constitutional Law was broken because counseling was a requirement of adoption.

Social Work in Victoria – Australia Journal of Social Work Vol 19 No 1 February 1966. – written by M Awburn, President Victorian Branch, Australian Association of Social Workers

Social Workers were not qualified and were not allowed to give unmarried mother's counseling. Counseling is Psychological Practice and they never had been trained in this area. They never referred any unmarried mothers to a Psychologist in order to make an assessment as to the mother's state of mind or to seek assistance to overcome the trauma of being separated from her infant.

Before any informed consent could be signed by a young mother, counseling was a pre-requisite of the adoption order. So why have they lied up until today that unmarried mothers were counseled when mothers state they weren't. How would they counsel them? "Do you want to deprive your baby of two parents and a healthy family life?" **They did not counsel mothers because if they had of they would have been prosecuted.**

Taking of Consents – IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT THE COMMITTEE MEMBERS understand that some natural mothers were forced to sign consent forms whilst a patient in the hospital, but the majority of natural mothers DID NOT SIGN CONSENT FORMS WHILST A PATIENT IN THE HOSPITAL, were discharged from hospital WITHOUT A SIGNED CONSENT without their baby, and then visited at their home by the adoption agency social worker. The hospital authorities did not obtain my written consent but kept my baby from me even after pleas from my father. (repeated sentence).

It has been discovered and confirmed that **adoption consent forms were organized prior to the birth of the baby but not signed until after.** Hand writing experts have examined many past consent forms and confirm that the majority of the form was filled out at a different time than at the signing of the consent form by mothers. *The baby's gender, date of birth and mother's signature also were not put in at the same time.*

The adoption agency social worker filled out the adoption form BEFORE THE BIRTH. That is an illegal act. Further when they visited the young mother at her home in the presence of her parents, the social worker refused the young mother a witness' presence during discussions with their daughter. In many cases the parents on behalf of the natural mother DEMANDED the return of their grandchildren but were informed THAT HE/SHE HAD GONE and that was only 4 days after the birth of the baby. ILLEGAL.

SOCIAL WORKERS/DOCTORS/SOLICITORS/JUDGES

The above parties have all contributed to the crimes that have been committed under the legislated Adoption Act.

The Inquiry needs to learn what was in these people's minds, in order to commit a crime. No one can look into some one else's mind but evidence presented can endeavor to ascertain their frame of mind.

These crimes committed must be seen through to their logical and complete conclusion. They crease a Constitutional crisis because the Rule of Law is the Democratic Rights of all people within the Constitution. Adoption is, constitutionally not within the province of the Federal Legislature but within each State.

The United Nations Declaration of the Rights of the Child is a binding constitutional statement of children's rights.

“Those that wish to deceive will always wish to defame others”.
“We have to shine the light under the rock and show the bugs under it”.
“The best stories to learn are the injustice to learn justice”.
“Dwell on injustice and find the justice”
By Justice Alan Dershowitz

“Injustice anywhere is a threat to Justice anywhere” Martin Luther King.

Philosophers attempt its conquest by reasoning and logic. How do they argue deception, pretence or trickery? Such things are forbidden in moral law which nature itself has ordained. Falsehood is bad and reprehensible. The truth is a praiseworthy thing. Those that avoid truth being told should be censured.

Where were the honest men and women in Society throughout these atrocities? Did they not know the meaning of honest dealing? Society demanded practices of outstanding caliber from all people in power.

Such authorities masquerade their intelligence with trickery. Intelligence is the function of good and bad and trickery prefers what is bad and wrong.

During the sale of slaves all deception was forbidden. Nature is the source of law and it is contrary to nature for social workers and others to prey on the ignorance of unmarried mothers.

Did the Social Workers, Doctors etc. have the assurance from the Government and Church Organisations that their wrong actions would be undiscovered and unpunishable? Did the Government of the day give these assurances?

Judges had the responsibility to discover the truth before an adoption order was granted. Did the authorities base their advocacy points that looked like the truth? We know today what they said to the Judges did not correspond with the truth.

Unmarried mothers were victims of oppression and persecution at the hands of these powerful and formidable personages.

Monstrous conduct and degrading and shameful practices must be accountable. We must employ statements from all concerned.

Passive/aggressive behavior patterns are within us from birth. As we move through life we unconsciously re-create the incidents, energy and environment that existed before and at the time of our birth. The doctors' etc. created immediate behavioral problems within our babies. Love is supportive and nurturing. It is protective and expanding. How could a mother protect her own baby when such authorities were criminals?

Child Welfare Advisory Council 1964

Dr Merritt Chairman of the above Advisory Council was in charge of Social Welfare Training aimed at training Child Care Staff in Institutions as he believed the need existed.

*“These persons chose to work in the frame work of **secrecy and denial** yet such frame work did not raise its head during training sessions. This profession was to work professionally to heal – **not destroy as they did.**”*

Doctors, nurses and Social Workers should reflect on the following:

*“There is nothing sadder in life
Than watching some one walking away
After they have taken your baby from you.
Watching the distance between you expand
Until there is nothing but empty space and silence”.*

Because they walked away from the bedsides of natural mothers leaving their life's in tatters – leaving empty space and silence in their hearts forever. How can those that worked in the '**forced adoptions – baby farming**' industry live with their actions?

How can love work through dishonesty,
**How can love work through dishonesty,
denial and silence
denial and silence**

“To sin by silence when we should protect makes cowards out of men.”

(Ella Wheller Wilcox)

Psychological Practices Act 1965.

On November 27, 1963 Kevin Victor Anderson Q.C. was constituted and appointed by order in Council to be a Board to inquire into, report upon and make recommendations covering Psychology, carried on, practiced and applied in Victoria. By 28 September 1965 his report covering over 200 foolscap pages was completed and his conclusion stated.

Social Workers were not qualified to practice psychology or qualified to give counseling to unmarried mothers. Thus the truth given by mothers is CONFIRMED. No counseling was received nor was there any other options available discussed before adoption.

**SOCIAL WORKERS WERE NOT ALLOWED TO UNDERTAKE THESE DUTIES BECAUSE IT WAS AGAINST AN ACT OF PARLIAMENT TO DO SO
And that is the truth. Read on**

When did they discuss other options with a young mother? After they had stolen a young mother's baby? I think not and they under law unable to discuss with the mother prior to the birth the matter of adoption. **So when did these trustworthy (corrupt) people discuss matters with a young mother? NEVER**

Following the Anderson report the "Psychological Practices Act 1965" was brought before Parliament. The Bill was to safeguard the public from unregistered persons from practicing psychology.

That in itself is "Evidence" that they did not carry out the law that was required of them in relation to the treatment of natural mothers and their infant. **Why did they fail in their duties?**

Those listed as exemptions from the Act of Parliament were doctors, ministers of religion and teachers. .

The Australian Association of Social Workers President obtained a copy of the report and was concerned at the omission of social workers... He requested that the wording be added and altered to 'professional social workers (defined as those eligible for membership of the AASW).

On 10 November 1965 a Bill to 'provide for the Registration of Psychologists, the Protection of the Public from Unqualified Persons and certain Harmful Practices and for other purposes' to be known as the "Psychological Practices Act 1965' was brought to Parliament.

The Bill defined 'Psychological Practice' in 3 sections the 2nd of which was as follows:

"The use of any method or practice calculated to assist persons or groups with adjustment or emotional or behavior problems in the areas of work, family, school or

personal relationships.’ Those who indulged in such Psychological Practice, therefore, presumably needed to be registered with the Victorian Psychological Council, **but eligibility for membership by definition in the Bill precluded social workers.** The “practice of psychology’ by anyone not registered under this Act would render the practitioners liable to a penalty of \$500. (\$500 in 1965 would be a very expensive fine).

The Bill specifically mentioned categories of people to whom the Act would not apply, viz., medical practitioners, priests or members of recognised religions, and ‘anyone acting in accordance with the rules under the supervision or direction of a registered psychologist’.

Note: Were hospital and adoption agency social workers acting under the supervision or direction of a registered psychologist when it came to counseling unmarried mothers? I think not and I know not. I was never counseled. **THEY HAVE CONTINUED TO LIE, AND THIS EVIDENCE PROVES BEYOND DOUBT THAT UNMARRIED MOTHERS WERE NOT COUNSELLED.**

WHY WOULD A SOCIAL WORKER PUT THEMSELES IN A POSITION OF BEING FINED \$500?

Panic broke out within the AASW, as their members were not exempt from this Act of Parliament. A letter was drafted from the office bearers of AASW and delivered without delay to the Premier, leaders of all parties and the Minister for Health in the hope that an amendment could be made before the Bill was passed. In the letter they expressed their deep concern at the position in which the Act placed social workers, suggested the non-application of the Act to professional social workers. Their letter to the Premier was acknowledged but no interview granted.

On 24 November the Bill was read for the 2nd and 3rd times and passed without amendment. The AASW then made the following statement:

“As an Association we have serious doubts about the Bill in its present form. We request non-application of the Act to Professional Social Workers in the same manner as it does not apply to other professions, such as legally qualified medical practitioners and priests and ministers of a recognised religion.

Psychological practice defined in the Bill Section 2(1) (b) and (c) is central to the practice of Social Work but the Bill only allows Social Workers to continue to practice if they seek exemption under Sec. 2 (7). The Association feels it should not have to seek this privilege but be granted it in the Act as a right. We urge non-application of the Act on the grounds of our own professional entity and integrity, which would make it inappropriate for Social Workers to be legislated for under an Act to register Psychologists.

Universities in all parts of the world distinguish between Psychologists and Social Workers by offering separate courses of study for each to equip them to practice as different disciplines. Social Work is therefore regarded as a profession in its own right, at least by universities.

Graduates of courses in Social Work in six universities in Australia are eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers. This Association is organised on a Federal level and has uniform minimum requirements for membership of both Australian-trained Social Workers and graduates of universities overseas. Our Association has a code of ethics and the power to maintain proper standards of professional practice and conduct of its members. The Australian Association of Social Workers is registered with the Conciliation and Arbitration Commission. Professional Social Workers are defined as those persons eligible for membership of the Australian Association of Social Workers.”

On December 7, 1965 the Bill came before the Legislative Council and it was passed at all stages.

NOTE:



After obtaining a copy of the Psychological Practices Act 1965 No 7355 it was discovered that the definition was “An Act to provide for the Registration of Psychologists, and the Protection of the Public from Unqualified Persons and certain Harmful Practices and for improper purposes”.

This Act of Parliament was passed and did not allow Social Workers (whether registered with the AASW or not) to practice psychology with their clients. Social Workers could no longer practice their own techniques in evaluating etc. any of their clients especially an unmarried mother.

It became their legal obligation as they were unable to deal with unmarried mothers’ emotional problems (as the social workers believed unmarried mothers suffered from a huge list of symptoms – thus her unwanted pregnancy) and was legally bound to refer the unmarried mother to a Psychologist to assist her.

This never happened. **WHAT DOES THAT TELL US? THE TRUTH** – unmarried mothers were not counseled anywhere in Australia and **WHY DID THE COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT AND THE AUSTRALIAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION** not protect unmarried mothers and make sure that they were receiving the proper mental medical treatment.

Any persons employed at ‘homes’ were unable to counsel unmarried mothers either under this Act of Parliament.

Under the Act of Parliament the terminology of Psychological practice or practice of psychology means

- (a) the evaluation of behavior or cognitive processes of personality or adjustment in individuals or in-groups through the interpretation of tests, for assessing mental abilities aptitudes interests attitudes emotions motivation or personality characteristics.

- (b) the use of any method or practice calculated to assist persons or groups with adjustment or emotional or behavior problems in the areas of work family school or person relationships; or
- (c) the administration of any prescribed test or the use of any prescribed technique device or instrument for assessing mental abilities aptitudes interests attitudes emotions motivation or personality characteristics -

It is imperative that the Senate Inquiry note and take on board this very important evidence that endorses the words of mothers “that they did not receive counseling”.

Page 6 – Philip J Boas, Chairman, Federal Council of Australia Association of Social Workers.

“The first meeting of the Professional Practices Committee was held on 29 October 1970. The committee was formed to combine Ethic Implementation Protection and Title Committee.

The Terms of reference were

1. to work towards requiring social workers to be registered by law in Victoria.
2. To establish a legally recognisable code of professional conduct.

It is the intention of the Committee to pursue these objectives until their feasibility is establishing”

Note: Further evidence that Social Workers were not registered by law in Victoria therefore could not have counseled unmarried mothers as they have stated in the past. Further, all the social workers’ documents and statements presented to the court at the time of adoption proceedings are invalid. The social workers would have known they were breaking the law.

The above words are self explanatory – ***“requiring social workers to be registered by law in Victoria”***. **As required under the Psychiatrist Legislation previously mentioned. Prior to the above THEY BROKE THE LAW and so did the SOLICITORS AND JUDGES because the evidence presented to the court at the time of the adoption proceedings was invalid. MOTHERS HAD NOT BEEN COUNSELED – their consents were unlawfully obtained and the arrangements were already put into place BEFORE THE BABY was born by hospital authorities in line with the COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT’S instructions for migrant unmarried mothers with such instructions flowing on to ALL UNMARRIED MOTHERS who entered their den.**

REVOCATION PERIOD

I have not covered this issue because it was a **FAST (speedy, rapid, swift, prompt, immediate, expeditious)** to cover up their illegal and unlawful actions.

IGNORANCE OF THE LAW IS NO EXCUSE.

They were clever but not clever enough because never in their wildest dreams did they expect things to rapidly change in the early 1980’s were natural mothers were able to open the Pandora’s box and discover the past adoption illegal and unethical

actions of so many people. Their plans well entrenched BEFORE THE BIRTH – the psychological torture of mothers AFTER THE BIRTH.

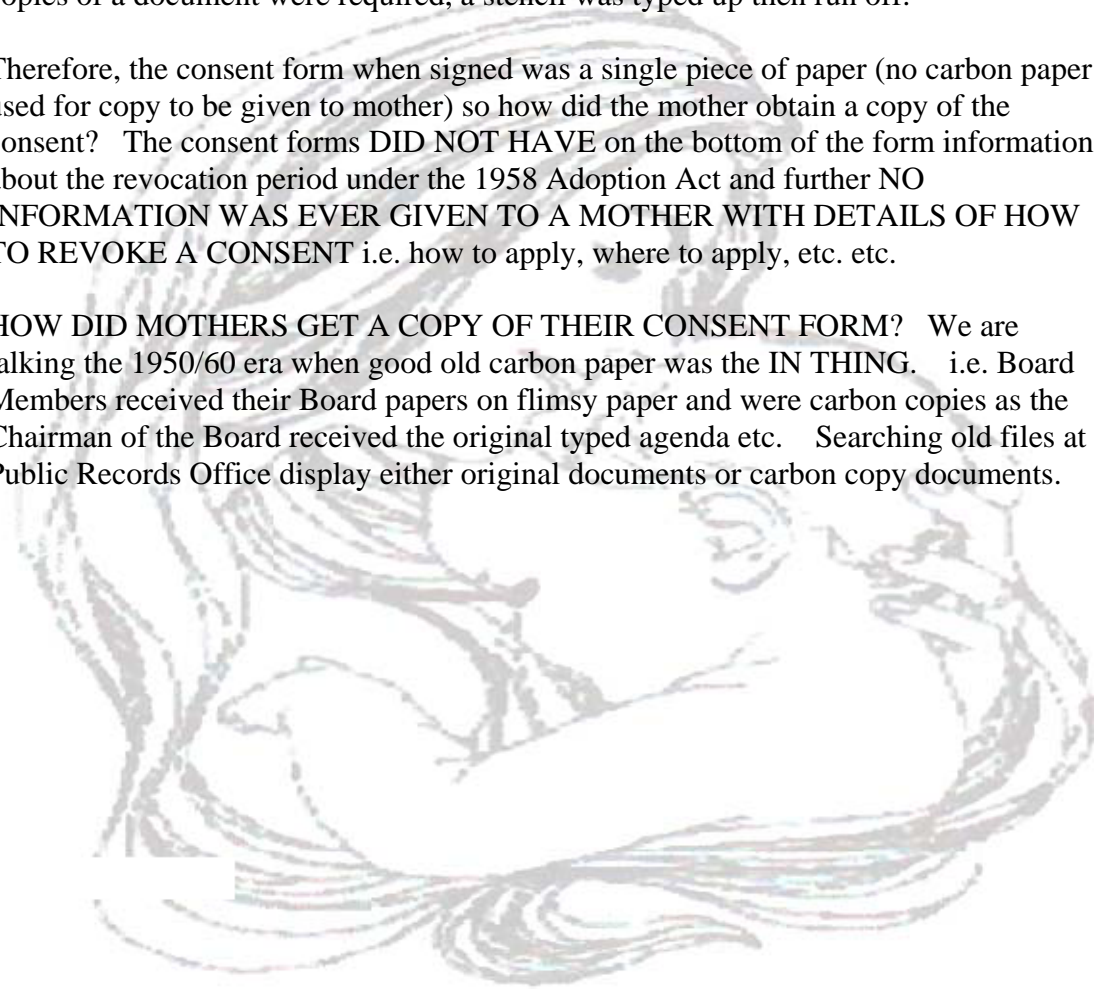
They all knew that a natural mother **NEVER LOST GUARDIANSHIP RIGHTS** (see above) until Adoption proceedings – and natural fathers also had rights up until this time – so the **REVOCATION PERIOD** was merely put into place as a cover up all the illegal and unlawful actions prior to the birth and immediately thereafter. In other words it was their own **SAFEGUARD**.

CARBON PAPER

During the 1950 – 1960 eras duplicate documents were signed with carbon paper between each copy. There were no photo copying machines available and if multiple copies of a document were required, a stencil was typed up then run off.

Therefore, the consent form when signed was a single piece of paper (no carbon paper used for copy to be given to mother) so how did the mother obtain a copy of the consent? The consent forms **DID NOT HAVE** on the bottom of the form information about the revocation period under the 1958 Adoption Act and further **NO INFORMATION WAS EVER GIVEN TO A MOTHER WITH DETAILS OF HOW TO REVOKE A CONSENT** i.e. how to apply, where to apply, etc. etc.

HOW DID MOTHERS GET A COPY OF THEIR CONSENT FORM? We are talking the 1950/60 era when good old carbon paper was the **IN THING**. i.e. Board Members received their Board papers on flimsy paper and were carbon copies as the Chairman of the Board received the original typed agenda etc. Searching old files at Public Records Office display either original documents or carbon copy documents.



CONCLUSION

In many countries throughout the world 'closed adoptions' took place during the 1960-1970 periods as a Social Cleansing exercise. These social cleansing exercises were modified from the Social Cleansing role of Hitler.

Many mothers are still frozen in time and cannot get past the time of being forced to surrender their child. We are discussing a period of time when many things changed. Marriage rules changed and divorce was introduced – no fault divorce laws.

Under the Probabilities of Worthiness philosophy mother and child were not considered. They were excluded by authorities who believed that the mother was unworthy of being a mother even though the law said she was the mother.

The mother by the light of reason and the support of virtue finds within herself the anticipatory signs, the expression and the promise of the gift of motherhood in conformity with use plans of our Creator. The Commonwealth Government and State Governments ignored the dignity of the mother – a dignity which must always be affirmed for its own sake. They did not have the legal power to reduce a mother's freedom. A young mother is the end and never the mere means but to the Governments

“a young mother was the mere means used for the benefit of manipulative, deceitful minds to ‘cleanse’ and ‘reform’ and ‘punish’ the mother and her child and fulfill their order for barren couples”. (the writer)

Without respect Governments fell into relativism and arbitrariness. What was behind their schemes to taint and cancel motherhood? To improve our national character?

To remove from the country 'shame' lying like a greasy sport on the national fabric of our national conscious?

The politicians that the community put their faith in took advantage of young mothers. The inhumane treatment mothers received must be recorded for all future generations to learn from. The names of those employed in the appropriate hospital and adoption agencies who contributed to these atrocities should be listed in a perpetual register so their true identity will be place in our nation's archives, never to be forgotten – ever.

It appears that the past politicians and other players did not have core values and failed in their duty of care. They lost sight of the big humanitarian picture. They got caught up in the **social cleansing** exercise being carried out within the nation. Family life was then and still is sacred and it deserves 'reverence'.

The policies put in place 'no breast feeding of her child' and several days after the birth of the baby, the mother was to be discharged so she could return to her home – by the Social Workers (...) (Royal Women's Hospital) and (...) (Queen Victoria Hospital) changing procedures for the care of unmarried mothers as far back as 1951.

Morality did not exist – making families to order as a paradise for families was and still is a recipe for tragedy. Our babies were abducted (kidnapped) and used in the recipe called “families” for barren couples. The playing field has now changed and mothers have exchanged the closet for the sunlight. The problems of the past must

be addressed so that all those affected can experience a better and more fulfilling future.

Our babies deserved the care, kindness, respect and civility bestowed upon them instead of 'those' defining them into so called better human beings than their mother. Their mother was an immoral person so they said.

Eugenics practiced like Hitler and Dr. Joseph Mengele did on the children of Auschwitz on our children. These experiments were to see how well **our babies** integrated into strangers homes. Research during the 1960 and 1970's was mainly carried out **'on how the adoptee and adopted parents' were coping.**

A document entitled *"The Natural Parents Needs after placement of her Child"* by Miss M Nicolas, Course for Adoption Workers 1966 Anglican Adoption Agency NSW Carramar House

"Although she consciously says "I know it was the best and only thing to do, because I could not give my child the normal family life which the adoptive parents can give", there still remains doubt in her mind about this. Even this statement can give the social worker a leg in to deal with her feelings about surrendering the child – focusing on HER feelings – not on what was best for the child – adoption".

The actions within the labor ward of holding a mother's arms in shackles and placing pillows high across the mother's stomach is a **despicable act and psychological act of dividing a human being into two pieces.**

"Mother and baby relationship" slaughtered in an attempt to exterminate with catastrophic actions. The holocaust of unmarried mothers sending out loud and clear messages to other young women that the authorities were in control. Without a doubt – examination of history will reveal that the adoption of Hitler's theory on to Australian unmarried mothers was adopted.

Mothers separated from their babies at birth have traveled a difficult road since the abduction of their baby. We lost our children and as many of us reflect on our other adult children, we see what has been lost, the relationship with our own child.

Atonement for past actions is called upon. It is now our right as human beings to fairness and freedom of voice. The foundation code of nature is trust and that trust was shattered. Medical staff, politicians and other workers forgot the meaning of trust and loyalty. They were traitors to humanity and our forefathers were civilized but the descendants were uncivilized against our nation who were responsible for the abduction of unmarried mothers' babies.

The 1950-1970 eras in our nation were one of prosperity. It was not an era for authorities to destroy any part of this nation nor infringed on others' human rights. They endeavour to hand down a future of shame and silence to mothers destroying the mind power of mothers who were victims. From 1969 mothers have fought for their voices to be heard and it is through submissions such as mine that a mother's voice will finally be heard and the truth unveiled.

The rights of individuals against the rights of society are clearly spelt out in our Constitution.

We speak out today to right the system that destroyed our lives. The welfare of future generations must be protected from the reappearance or emergency of the same law breaking politicians and authorities. World leaders continually work towards the elimination of the emergence of any monsters that threaten a peaceful world – so too mothers will continually work towards the acknowledgement of motherhood regardless of a mother's bank account balance.

They failed as the mind power of some very brave mothers (sometimes at a personal cost) RAISE THEIR VOICES not only for themselves, but mothers who are no longer with us and for our children to know the truth – we did not abandon them – WE LOVED THEM.

The past of this country must be cleansed. The future of this country depends on the state of minds of its citizens and the damaged minds of the past must be allowed to heal and this cannot happen until the rest of the nation understands the truth.

A sexual act that created a new life has been falsely accused as being shameful. The sexual act that created the new life of my daughter was not shameful. She was conceived in love and that love has remained around her to this very day.

THANK YOU

My personal thanks to the Western Australian Government for the apology to unmarried mothers acknowledging the illegal and unlawful treatment they received.

To each member of the Senate Committee – I know the journey will be painful – but your findings will bring healing to thousands of former teenage mothers and their babies.

PRESENTATION ORDER

I have endeavored to present as many facts as I can really in no particular order as I believe each fact has its own place. In putting this submission together, many more evidential facts could have been presented, but with the 'small scale of time available for submissions to be viewed by the committee – I do not want to take up too much of your reading time in the event someone else's is not read.

IT IS SO IMPORTANT THAT ALL SUBMISSIONS ARE GIVEN EQUAL READING TIME NO MATTER HOW MUCH TIME IS NECESSARY THUS RESPECTING ALL SUBMISSIONS. THE TASK IS ENORMOUS FOR EACH MEMBER OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE AND I AM SURE IT WILL BE AN UNEXPECTED EMOTIONAL JOURNEY AS YOU UNRAVEL PART OF THE NATION'S HISTORY THAT HAS BEEN HIDDEN FOR SO LONG.

With time constraints I am unable to provide a list of all the references over the past 18 years of my research but include the following articles.

God's Blessings to each of you.

Adoption Committee – this committee came into existence in June with the following Terms of Reference. Clarification and discussion of the Social Workers role under the Adoption Act in regard to

- (a) the child, the natural parents and the adoption applicant
- (b) co-operation with the medical provision, legal provision and other professional groups involved in adoption.
- (c) Community discussion regarding adoption
- (d) Any other matters relating to the adoption field

Work is proceeding along these lines.

The following year's annual report advises that the committee had not met to discuss the Terms of Reference.

1968.
Pamela Roberts. A.I.M.S.W. Social Worker, Crown Street Women's Hospital Sydney.
COUNSELLING OF NATURAL MOTHER.

Roberts, points out in her paper, Some of the Needs of the Unmarried Mother Who Keeps Her Child, that some of the important provisions that should be made to the natural parents were, that the unmarried mother should receive as much help and counseling as possible throughout the pregnancy, confinement and immediately afterwards, so that her needs both practical and emotional should be met. In other words the adoption agencies were not merely to exist to provide suitable childless couples with a family.

She also adds, that added provisions on adoption, as well as counseling which mothers receive, should help the mother who has released her child for adoption feel that she has participated in the process of planning for her child, a fact that may well help her toward the adjustment to the loss of her child.

1976.

ANNIVERSARY REACTIONS.

Cavenar.J.; Spaulding.J.G: Hammet.E.: 1976.

Anniversary reactions are among the most interesting phenomena seen in clinical practice. These reactions are time specific psychological or physiological events which occur or reoccur in response to traumatic events in the individuals past, or in the past of a person with whom the individual is closely identified. The individual attempts to relive or re-experience the traumatic event again in a repetitious way, in anticipation of being able to master the trauma which was not mastered previously.

Freud was the first to recognize anniversary reactions in 1885. Pollock. (1971) describes the anniversary reaction as a response of the mind which is triggered by the anniversary of a personal loss or disappointment. Various case histories are described, indicating that a variety of physical and psychological problems may occur as anniversary responses.

Depressive disorders, ranging from very mild depression to psychotic level disorders, may occur on an anniversary basis. Heart attacks, pleurisy and pneumonia, suicides, and phobic fear are also attributed to anniversary reactions. Pollock (1971) has written extensively on the subject. He believes that these reactions are due to incomplete or abnormal mourning over a personal loss or disappointment.

Hilgard (1953) has written extensively on anniversary reactions. She reports that depression or psychotic reactions may be precipitated as anniversary reactions to childhood sibling deaths.

Various disease processes have been described as somatic equivalents or expressions of anniversary reactions. Weiss et.al. (1957) have described hypertensive crises, irritable bowel syndromes, and coronary occlusion as anniversary responses. Rheumatoid arthritis, migraine headache and dermatologic conditions have also been described as anniversary reactions. Anniversary reactions are much more common in medical practice than is generally recognized. This is true with physical complaints and illnesses as well as psychiatric or emotional problems.

1977.

GRIEF OF NATURAL MOTHERS.

Cliff Picton. Lecturer in Social Work, Monash University.

The following material is drawn from an unsolicited group of fifty one letters received by the Conference office, Sydney, prior to the First Australian Conference on Adoption. Feb.1976. One of the letters came from a hypnotherapist who wrote "many of my patients are women distressed by not knowing what became of their children who they gave up for adoption, and adults who were adopted as babies and desperately wish to know something of their biological parents".

The range of feelings described in the letters runs the gamut from curiosity thirteen years after, to "complete and continuing agony and a sense of loss". Several talk of repeated crying and one woman said she was in tears as she wrote the letter. One woman who relinquished her child twenty years ago said, " I have never gotten over it, it still upsets me". Another, thirteen years later, says she still looks for the "lost" child and feels deep depression on the child's birthday. In addition to years of grief and remorse, she now experiences the fear that retrospective legislation could result in the break down of her marriage.

In the main there was strong identification with the child with references to "my child" and "loving". Six talk of seeing the child and wanting a meeting, ranging from "I believe he has a right to know me, to "I will find you one day fair means or foul". One letter contained disturbing details of desperation and unhappiness and contained the speculation that "the child will wonder who she is".

Picton goes on to speculate that most of these women have been left with unanswered questions and raw feelings and quote, "one is left wondering about the quality of service given to these women".

ATTACHMENT BONDS. 1976

Martin Reite.MD. Conny Seiler. and Robert Short. MS.

In a paper illustrating attachment bonds between mother and child they point out that: attachment bonds are central to the development of many higher organisms. In higher primates they are crucial for the maintenance of family and social structure. The relationship of the individual to such structures and their disruption may be closely linked to the development of serious psychopathology.

Separations and losses have been implicated in the etiology of affective disorders and maternal loss has serious psycho-physiological consequences in human infants and children.

A monkey-mother and infant were used for studying the behavioral and psychological consequences of maternal loss and the attendant disruption of the most important attachment bond. They made observations through implant systems that permitted psychological monitoring of the unrestrained infant living in its social group.

The period of behavioral agitation immediately following separation from the mother was accompanied by increases of heart rate and body temperature. Sleep patterns on the first night of separation were characterised by increased sleep latency, more frequent arousals, less total sleep, increased REM latency, and decreased REM sleep. Most often both heart rate and body temperature showed pronounced decreases the first night of separation.

An infant monkey at fourteen weeks old was used in an experiment on separation from its mother. It starts with the infant and its mother being removed from their group and separated at 2 pm. The infant was returned to the group. The infant immediately exhibited increased locomotor behavior and vocalisation, characteristic of agitation reaction. Within seven minutes of its return it was adopted by a childless female adult.

Following lights out that night the infant was monitored. The separated infant spent all night sleeping in ventro-ventral contact with the adoptive female. During the first night of separation the infant's body temperature decreased 1.4 degrees below its pre-established normal baseline. The infant also suffered increased sleep latency, more frequent arousals, more time awake and the total of absence of REM sleep. Behavioral depression the morning following was manifested by decreases in activity and play behavior and impaired motor coordination.

These observations demonstrate the physiological accompaniments of maternal separation in monkey infants at least in terms of body temperature decreases and sleep pattern changes. These occur even when the infant is adopted by another adult female who can provide the infant with body heat; physical contact and normal sleep enclosed posture.

They concluded that they can infer that these physiological changes are not due to the physical absence of the mother but are instead etiologically related, at least in part, to the perception of the loss of the mother on the part of the infant. They suggest that the monkey data will prove to be of significant value to our understanding with respect to man.

1978.

MOURNING A STILL BIRTH.

It has been noted in a paper delivered in 1978 that failure to mourn a stillbirth can cause profound disturbance to the mother. In the hospital bereaved mothers are usually isolated. This was meant to protect the mother from the anxiety of the awareness of live babies. On returning home she was usually confronted by a "conspiracy of silence". No acknowledgement of the tragedy can seriously affect the mental health of the mother and her family.

Bourne (1968) describes the stillbirth as a non event in which there is guilt and shame with no tangible person to mourn. A still born is a person who did not exist, a person with no name.

Memory facilitates the normal mourning process essential for recovery. With other bereavements there is much to remember, not so with stillbirth, there is no one to talk about and no one to talk to about it. The bereaved mothers may themselves avoid contact with people because of the unconscious feelings of guilt and shame associated with a sense of being a failure as a mother.

The effects of stillbirth on the mother can be easily be equated to a mother who has lost a child to adoption.

1978.

BIRTH PARENTS REVISITED AFTER ADOPTION.

Pannor. R. Baran.A. Sorosky.A. 1978.

The findings of a thousand letters received from the three parties in an Adoption Research Project revealed that many birth mothers had not resolved their feelings for their relinquished child that they were told they could never see again. Many were found to have a lifelong unfulfilled need for further information and in some cases contact with the relinquished child.

Many report varying degrees of grief, the persistence of troubled feelings, and no viable alternative that would have made it possible to keep their child. Their findings reflect the fact that the birth parents seem to be functioning on two levels. They are functioning well within the existing marriage or family, but they harbor deep unresolved feelings and sharp memories of the bearing and losing of the child.

Fifty percent of the birth parents interviewed said they continued to have feelings of loss, pain, and mourning over their child. Some expressed the feeling that "I have never got over the feeling of loss; I still have feelings of guilt and pain when I think about it. Giving up my child was the saddest day of my life".

They summarised by saying that feelings of loss, pain and mourning continued many years after the relinquishment. An overwhelming majority experienced feelings of wanting their children to know they still cared for them.

RELINQUISHMENT AND IT'S MATERNAL COMPLICATIONS.

Rynearson.E.K.MD. 1982

The twenty women in this study were drawn from a population of psychiatric out patients. The fact that a woman had relinquished a child was established during psychiatric assessment.

Twelve of the women had a DSM-111 diagnosis of dysthymic disorder, and eight had a diagnosis of generalised anxiety disorder, borderline personality or dependent personality disorder. No one with a psychotic or schizophrenic disorder was included in the study.

All women had lost a child between the ages of 15-19; all were unmarried and dependent on their families. When they entered the centers for unwed mothers they all agreed to relinquish their babies. In spite of this, 19 mothers developed a covert maternal identification with the fetus. This was manifested more in the second trimester with quickening.

During this time the subjects developed an intense private monologue with the fetus, including a rescue fantasy in which they and the new born infant would be "saved" from relinquishment.

All the women dreaded delivery. All remember labor as a time of loneliness and painful panic. All received general anesthesia at time of delivery, which heightened the extirpative quality of their last contact with their baby. Eighteen of these were not allowed to see their babies after delivery. All reported the signing of the adoption papers as being traumatic, all felt a feeling of numbness and disassociation during the hospitalisation.

All the women left the hospital with the question of what happened to the baby. Use of general anesthesia during the final stage of labor and post partum period inhibited the open expression of mourning and intensified the fantasised attachment to the lost child.

The entire women returned home, they all reported dreams concerning the loss of the baby with contrasting themes of traumatic separation and joyful reunion. All experienced curiosity when seeing a stranger with a baby as to whether this was the baby they lost. When there was "enough" physical resemblance they would follow the baby as if to visually retrieve it. Underlying fear, was a constantly acknowledged urge to get pregnant, an over determined need to undo the act of relinquishment.

All of the subjects continued to experience symptoms of mourning at the anniversary of the relinquishment and presented the co-existent themes of sadness regarding the loss, and joy in the conviction that the child was happy and well.

In summary the women's fantasies and behavior related to the act of relinquishment may be viewed as compensatory, allowing a sustained internalized attachment and maternal identification in spite of its external interruption.

1982.

ANGER IN THE NATURAL MOTHER.

Kate Ingles. (1982), talks about the anger of the natural mother following the loss of her baby. Anger at her helplessness and the officialdom that represents the power to decide what happens to her baby, a power she is without. Anger at all those known and unknown persons who could not and would not rescue her. Anger at her prolific body, so at odds with her circumstances. Anger at her parents, anger at friends, anger at the "unfairness" that allows the man involved freedom from the experience she must endure and integrate.

Anger at the adoptive parents for all they have and all she needs. Anger at the world that elevates motherhood to sanctity but failed her as a mother. Anger at her discovery that "approved of and supported motherhood" is very rigidly defined and excludes her. Anger on behalf of her baby who she feels is defined as unwanted unless she is removed. Anger that must be suppressed and contained that could provide a list of causes and directions too immense and personally derived for us to take account of. She may, if the common numbness described by such mothers does not lift for many years, only come to anger years after her lost baby is grown up and the specific persons involved are far distant or dead in her present life. She may begin her pregnancy in anger and resentment and continue for years with a randomly placed rage.

1983.

WEEKEND AUSTRALIAN. MARCH 5-6. 1983. MOTHERS SUFFER AFTER ADOPTION.

Danielle Robinson. Quote. "Research has found that the forgotten natural mothers of adopted children are suffering serious psychological problems up to forty years after being parted from their children".

The research financed by the Institute of Family Studies has found that many mothers never get over the trauma of giving up their babies.

The research also found that of at least 50% of the women studied, a deep sense of loss had never left them since the time of relinquishment of their babies. In many of these mothers their sense of loss only got worse with time and in some cases lasted forty years, Professor Winkler said.

Most women found it difficult to cope and some needed psychological help to come to terms with their sense of loss.

Professor Winkler and fellow researcher Ms. Margaret Van Kepple were struck by the enormity of the response the women gave to the study and were alarmed by the strong emotions expressed.

1983.

FEAR IN THE NATURAL MOTHER: AFTERMATH OF ADOPTION.

Eva Begleiter: 1983.

The range and extent of fear expressed by the natural mother as the aftermath of adoption can relate to:

1. Fear that the adoptee will never know of his adoptive status.
2. Fear that the adoptee has suffered negative feelings and had other problems related to his adoption.

3. Fear that the adoptee has hateful and angry feelings toward his natural parents. Natural mothers often question how they will cope with this if contact occurs, although one recently stated she would prefer to hear negative feelings voiced directly rather than never have the opportunity to meet the adoptee face to face.
4. Fear that the adoptee will believe his natural mother did not want him, and never know she did and still cares and continues to be concerned about his progress and welfare.
5. Fear that the adoptive parents have told the adoptee lies, "your mother is dead", or painted a very bleak picture of his natural parents.
6. Fears that the adoptee is dead or fears for his welfare should his parents die while he is still dependent.
7. Fears that the child relinquished for adoption was not placed and instead grew up in an institution.
8. Fears that the adoptee will not search, despite his desire, because of his adoptive parents' opposition or because he feels they will be really hurt if he searched.

1986.

PSYCHOLOGICAL DISABILITY IN BIRTH MOTHERS.

Condon. J.T. 1986. Existing evidence suggests that the experience of relinquishment renders a woman at high risk of psychological (and possibly physical) disability. Moreover very recent research indicates that actual disability or vulnerability may not diminish even decades after the event.

Condon defines how the relinquishment experience differs from prenatal bereavement in four crucial psychological aspects.

Firstly: although construed as "voluntary" most relinquishing mothers feel the relinquishment is their only option in the face of financial hardship, pressure from family, professionals and social stigma associated with illegitimacy.

Secondly: their child continues to exist and develop while remaining inaccessible to them, and one day may be reunited with them. The situation is analogous to that of relatives of servicemen "missing believed dead". The reunion fantasy renders it impossible to "say goodbye" with any sense of finality. Disabling chronic grief reactions were particularly common in the war in such relatives.

Thirdly: the lack of knowledge of the child permits the development of a variety of disturbing fantasies, such as the child being dead, or ill, unhappy or hating his or her relinquishing mother. The guilt of relinquishment is thereby augmented.

Fourthly: the women perceive their efforts to acquire knowledge about their child (which would give them something to let go of) as being blocked by an uncaring bureaucracy. Shawyer describes poignantly how "confidential files are tauntingly kept just out of reach, across official desks". Thus the anger that is associated with the original event is kept alive and refocused onto those who continue to come between mother and child.

On a study of twenty women who relinquished their baby, all but two of them reported strong feelings of affection for the infant, both during the late pregnancy and in the immediate post partum period. None reported negative feelings toward the child.

Feelings of sadness or depression at the time of relinquishment were rated on the average as intense and "the most intense ever experienced". Anger at the time of

relinquishment was rated at the time as between "a great deal and intense". Only 33% reported a decrease over time, and over one half said their anger had increased. Guilt at the time was rated as "intense" with only 17% reporting a decrease over the intervening years.

Almost all the women reported they had received little or no help from family, friends or professionals. Over half of them had used alcohol or sedative medication to help them cope after relinquishment. Almost all reported that they dealt with their distress by withdrawing and bottling up their feelings. One third had subsequently sought professional help.

A most striking finding in the present study is that the majority of these women reported no diminution of their sadness, anger and guilt over the considerable number of years which had elapsed since their relinquishment. A significant number actually reported an intensification of these feelings especially anger.

Taken overall, the evidence suggests that over half of these women are suffering from severe and disabling grief reactions which are not resolved over the passage of time and which manifest predominantly as depression and psychosomatic illness.

A variety of factors operated to impede the grieving process in these women. Their loss was not acknowledged by family and professionals, who denied them the support necessary for the expression of their grief. Intense anger, shame and guilt complicated their mourning, which was further inhibited by the fantasy of eventual reunion with their child. Many were too young to have acquired the ego strength necessary to grieve in an unsupported environment.

Few had sufficient contact with the child at birth or received sufficient information to enable them to construct an image of what they had lost. Masterson (1976) has demonstrated that mourning cannot proceed without a clear mental picture of what has been lost.

The notion that maternal attachment can be avoided by a brisk removal of the infant at birth and the avoidance of subsequent contact between mother and child is strongly contradicted in recent research. Condon and others have demonstrated an intense attachment to the unborn child in most pregnant women.

There is a strong impression from data that over-protectiveness is part of the phenomenon of unresolved grief and serves both to assuage guilt and compensate for the severe blow dealt by relinquishment to the self esteem in the area of being a "good mother".

The relatively high instance of pregnancy during the year after relinquishment invites speculation that this represents a maladaptive coping strategy that involves a "replacement baby".

1986 THE LIE.

Watson. K.W. : Birth Families: Living with the Decision. 1986. Birth parents who place children for adoption are expected to live a lie the rest of their lives. The adoption eliminates the public record of the child's birth, and the birth parents are counseled by family, friends and social agencies to go on with their lives as if the pregnancy never occurred. This socially sanctioned denial not only interferes with the resolution of grief, but intensifies the parents' poor self-image by reinforcing the idea that what they have done is so heinous that it must be concealed forever.

1986.

THE PARENT AND FOETAL RELATIONSHIP, OF MALE AND FEMALE EXPECTANT PARENTS.

Condon. John.T. In a questionnaire issued to 54 first time expectant couples. Three of the major findings were. (1) thoughts and feelings about the fetus are strikingly

similar between pregnant women and expectant fathers: (2) the behavioural expression of this antenatal attachment is considerably attenuated in the men, most likely due to perceived conflicts with the sex role stereotype of masculinity: (3) Attitudes towards the fetus per se are not necessarily correlated (in either sex) with attitudes towards "being pregnant".

Greenburg and Morris. observed that a group of fathers, first presented with their neonates, exhibited "engrossment" which was virtually identical with that of their spouses. The authors concluded that the encounter with the infant "released an innate potential" for fathering.

The present writer (Condon) has observed profound grief reactions in fathers bereaved by stillbirths, suggesting a significant antenatal attachment.

1987.

BIRTH PARENTS AND LOSS.

Van Keppel. M. Midford.S. Cicchini.M. 1987. In a paper presented at the National Association for Loss and Grief, Van Keppel, Midford and Cicchini state that perhaps the most obvious loss experience in adoption is the loss of the child relinquished by his/her birth parents. The significance of this loss however has either been denied or grossly underestimated by society in general and by adoption practices in particular.

"It is our contention that their grief has been cruelly exacerbated by the long standing conspiracy of silence which surrounded adoption practise".

The loss of a child by death is generally accepted to be a very traumatic event for parents and family, and is followed by traumatic and complicated grief reactions. The loss of a child through relinquishment is similarly, for many birth mothers, a tragic event but is complicated by the fact that the birth mother suffers in silence.

Many birth mothers have reported extended periods of depression, anxiety, feeling suicidal, as well as alcohol and drug use, and poor physical health immediately following the relinquishment. In many instances the mother didn't necessarily attribute these physical and emotional disturbances to the loss of their child, primarily because they had been led to believe they would not suffer and if they did, it would be short lived.

Research has demonstrated that in the long term relinquishing mothers are more susceptible to a variety of physical and emotional difficulties: they experience an on-going sense of loss, which for some fluctuates according to events such as anniversaries.

1987.

PRIMARY PROCESS THINKING IN PREGNANT WOMEN.

Condon J. 1987, in his paper on the Altered Cognitive Functioning in Pregnant Women, refers to Raphael-Leff (1980) who has provided one of the few detailed descriptions of analytic psychotherapy with pregnant women. She writes: the pregnant woman has immediate and direct access to her well of fantasies, her earlier modes of symbolic thinking. . . she is in touch with her unconscious, and at times feels most overwhelmed by the power of the irrational within her.

She suddenly finds herself different from others, and unable to communicate the "mad" content of her experiences, which she recognizes and is embarrassed by. Her dreams too, have become extremely vivid with often explicit symbolism and with little attempt to "censor" or disguise forbidden content.

1988.

PARENT AND INFANT ATTACHMENT IN THE EARLY POSTNATAL PERIOD.

Condon J. 1988, Says that inquiry into the early development of mother-to-infant bonding has been heavily dominated by the "critical period" theory or "bonding hypothesis" of Klaus and Kennel (1982). In its simplest form, the theory states that skin-to-skin contact between mother and infant during the first 24 hours after delivery is necessary for the normal development of maternal-infant bonding. Conversely, the absence of such contact during this "sensitive period" carries a significant risk of deficient bonding that may endure throughout early childhood and exert potentially detrimental effects on the child's development.

In Condon's view, the critical period theory, with its strong overtones of animal behavioural psychology, provides a very limited perspective on the richness of human mothers cognitive and emotional experiences during the early postpartum period and the complexity of the factors that determine these experiences.

Twenty five years ago, Gerald Caplan (1961) wrote:

You can predict this time lag (between the mother seeing the neonate and experiencing attachment) by paying attention to her attitude to the fetus. In extreme cases there is no time lag at all: she continues to have the relationship with the baby which she had to the fetus, interrupted only by the mechanics of delivery ("Now he's outside. . . but he's the same person").

1988.

BIRTH FATHERS.

Winkler.R. Brown.D. Van Keppel.M. Blanchare.A.: 1988.

It has been conservatively estimated that one in fifty women in Western countries in 1988 will have placed a child for adoption since the beginning of the twentieth century. Approximately half of these women will have experienced much pain and suffering as a result of their decision to relinquish their child (Winkler & Van Keppel).

It is only in more recent years that birth-parents have "come out" and talked publicly about their private anguish. There is also a growing body of recent research data which has supported their claims that relinquishing a child is a profound loss experience, and this life event can have long term deleterious results.

While a considerable number of birth fathers are not aware of their role in the adoption process (because the birth mothers chose or were unable to disclose such information to the fathers of their children), those who were involved, also suffer. While fewer birth fathers seek professional services in an attempt to alleviate their suffering, those who do, appear to have similar experiences to the birth-mothers. Too frequently, birth parents have stated that they felt pressured into relinquishing their child for adoption by adoption workers (and others). They felt that they were not given accurate or adequate information about their rights and the adoption process. Almost none expected the strong emotional reactions which they experienced and were not encouraged to actively mourn the loss of their child.

Many felt incidental to the adoption process and felt the major focus of attention was to the child and the adopting family.

The above difficulties have resulted in additional, more complicated psychological and social difficulties than might have otherwise been expected to result from the relinquishment process.

For example:

- A sense of powerlessness and betrayal that has permeated subsequent relationships, not only with the professionals but also with family and friends.

- Inability to mourn the loss of their child, because they had no memories of the actual child: there was often no saying goodbye, nor memories of seeing or touching the child which would have assisted the parents to shift the experience from the realm of fantasy into the realm of reality. Denial of the experience was promoted as an effective coping strategy.
- Damaged self-esteem and a strong sense of worthlessness (complicated by shame and guilt) resulted from the way in which their needs and experiences were ignored by members of the adoption community.

For most women, pregnancy and childbirth are universally recognized as physically, emotionally and socially stressful events, requiring a substantial period of adjustment.

1988. - GIVING UP THE BABY.

Gediman. Judith. 1963. In her article "Giving up the Baby" notes, *"what I have learned, from researching the reunion phenomenon and the interviewing of the birth mothers, is that contrary to what these young mothers were advised by humiliated parents and adoption social workers, the fact that being a mother, did not disappear with the surrender of the child. Vast numbers of them were not able to put the experience behind them, "get on with it" and "get on with their lives."* *The need to know what happened to their child seems almost universal and does not disappear. One birth-mother after another talks about the pain of going through life wondering whether the child is alive or dead: Is he well? Is he happy? What kind of life has he had? Where is he. Not knowing is compared to having a loved one missing in action.*

So birth mothers find themselves looking involuntarily at every boy or girl they pass on the street and feeling a part of themselves is missing. In addition to the impact on their feelings about themselves and their lost children, birthmothers report still other kinds of consequences resulting from long ago adoptions. Some reveal that the psychic strain of living with such a secret over the years has taken a profound toll; consuming energies which might have otherwise have been put to more constructive educational, career oriented or other pursuits. Adoptions have also influenced subsequent childbearing. Some mothers, for example, became pregnant shortly after the relinquishment. The reverse effect also exists, with secondary infertility found to be higher among women who have surrendered a child to adoption than among other populations.

1990.

BIRTH MOTHER SPEAKS.

Sue Wells, a birth mother says in her article: "What has happened to my child? Is she well and happy?" These are questions that plague all birthmothers who, like me lost their children to strangers through adoption. Some mothers will never know. Some dare not dwell on the subject. Some have sought psychiatric help to cope with the anxiety of not knowing, or succumbed to physical stress. Some are still searching and hoping for a reunion. I am lucky I have found my daughter. We have found each other. She continues: Everyone automatically assumed that babies born out of marriage in the 60s and the early seventies should be adopted; Our parents assumed it, the medical profession and the adoption workers not only assumed it but strongly advocated it. It was as if we did not exist. Many of us were offered no support, no counseling, and no information.

We were told to "go away and forget" and that we could make a fresh start, as if nothing ever happened. But what they forgot to tell us was that we would never forget the child we bore and gave birth to, in spite of the various ways we may have tried. They also forgot to tell us it would affect us the rest of our lives.

The loss of our children does not fade with time and is exacerbated by a lack of information about them.

THE ABSENT CHILD.

Maureen Connelly says: What makes a mother? Is it the child birth? Is it the bearing and nourishing and sustaining him for the first nine months of his life? Is it the raising of him, spending his growing years with him? When do women become mothers? Does some thing magical happen during or after childbirth?

Is this the forging, the test by fire, or do mothers become themselves under the gentle pedagogy of the tiny teachers who make them feel too much too soon? Are we the mothers when we begin to care, to wonder, when we realise we are moved by a child we can't even see? When does motherhood begin, when does it end - or does it have beginning and end? Is it time bound?

Grumet; (1983, p47) Why did I want to look at my child when I knew it was a look of impossible opportunity? We had a momentary meeting, a cheat, really, because no relation could come of it, and yet there was something. The look that said, "your mine forever", wistfully from mother to baby but, more significantly from baby to mother, and I was absolutely correct. I am his forever.

Connolly asks: What is it like to live with an absent child? Perhaps more than anything it is one-sided. The bond and the bonding are felt by one person. The short time that a mother and baby have with each other is nonetheless long enough and strong enough to forge a togetherness that cannot be forgotten, regretted, or denied, a togetherness that is remembered, relived, and lived with excruciating fondness and tenderness. She is his mother, an unalterable, irrefutable, recurring, unending awareness, wondering, missing. How strange that one can miss utterly someone one has known so briefly. It was and is the quality of the knowing that makes the missing and the absence so intense.

It is the "not knowing" which is the most painful at times. All the authorities will tell you: It's better not to know; but then how do they know?

IMPACT ON SEXUALITY.

There is a heart breaking trauma in an adolescent who becomes pregnant in her early sexual experience. She may go through a post traumatic stress reaction in her later relationships, associating sex with loss, shame and loss of control. Why should she ever want to have sex again? (Kaplan, 1989)

Many birthmothers who marry find their earlier birth experience affects the marital interaction (71%), with problems in commitment, allegiance and jealousy heightened. Birth parents who are married to each other have a high risk of marital unhappiness and fragmentation in their relationship, but stay together because their shared bereavement is a stronger bond than commonality of spirit or interests (Deykin et al.1984).

IMPACT ON SPIRITUALITY.

The relinquishment experience in its cultural-religious milieu has had a profound spiritual impact on birthmothers. Nave (1989) found that many birthmothers had gone to their churches for advice and support during pregnancy and were counseled in a manner they now regard as anti-ethical to Christianity, shame based rather than love based. The results were feelings of demoralization, lowered self esteem and estrangement from the church.

One woman reported "The attitudes and actions of individuals and institutions representing the church are what caused me to leave and stay away for many years". Another said "Adoption and the church are very much intertwined. . . . they explained

what adoption was and how, if I really loved my baby. I wouldn't think of keeping him".

Part of the rage they feel is no one warned them of the severity of the depression that follows relinquishment. Some were deceived by social workers who promised them the baby would be placed with parents of a particular denomination: the truth was found out later after reunion.

A committed Christian birthmother may compensate after relinquishment by becoming super-spiritual, devoting her self to church work, being judgmental of herself and others and avowing a strong belief in the power of prayer. Yet inside, she may have grave doubts and feel spiritually frozen, because her primary request to God, to know the whereabouts and welfare of her child (as mothers in biblical accounts of adoption were privileged to do) has never been answered.

If the day comes when she has been reunited with her child, it is a miracle of the highest order. It may have the power of her original encounter with God, like being born again. She may report the restoration of feelings of closeness to God which may result in the development of a genuine compassion for other people as human beings. She may feel that the real self she acquired in her original salvation experience was lost at relinquishment and restored at reunion with her child, but only birthmothers understand or care.

1993.

POST TRAUMATIC STRESS IN BIRTHMOTHERS.

Sue Wells, giving extracts in her presentation to a conference in Amsterdam based on her research into post traumatic stress (PTSD) which is defined as the development of symptoms following a psychologically distressing event that is outside of the usual human experience. Serious attention is now being given to the trauma attached to the separation and loss of the mother and child through adoption, and the profound and long term effects this can have on both of them.

A survey conducted on 300 birthmothers suggested that the loss of their children constitutes a trauma which may be life long. Almost half of them say it had affected their physical health, and almost all say it affected their mental health. This in turn has affected their interpersonal relationships with family, partners and the parenting of subsequent children.

Symptoms of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. Many birthmothers say they split themselves off from their trauma as a coping mechanism. This avoidance as a strategy is one of the key symptoms of PTSD which Allison says may be caused by the trauma being internalised to avoid immediate pain. Many say they escaped into drugs and alcohol or precocious sexual activity, especially in the year or so after relinquishment. Most say they felt numb, shocked, empty, sad and many said they felt the same way many years later.

The distress associated with the loss may cause Psychogenic Amnesia which many mothers have verified by saying they are unable to recall important events associated with the birth or adoption.

Strategies for reducing distress means that exposure or events associated with the trauma, e.g. anniversaries, child's birthday, Christmas, family gatherings etc, are experienced by all the birthmothers in the sample as painful or causing "intense psychological distress".

Psychic numbing, where the birthmother feels detached or estranged from others who have not been through the same experience is also substantiated early on. The burden of secrecy can perpetuate this.

Difficulty in forgiving their own parents whom many saw as instrumental in the loss of their babies has affected their subsequent family relationships.

Lack of a positive image of their future is another symptom described by Allison where guilt feeling about what they had to do in order to survive is very much an issue with many of the birthmothers.

Recurrent dreams or nightmares where the trauma is relived are characteristic of some mothers' experience, especially early after the relinquishment.

Elsewhere it is stated that symptoms of depression and anxiety are commonly associated with PTSD.

1994.

THE HOSPITAL EXPERIENCE. "I REALLY AM A MOTHER".

Lauderdale.J.: Boyle. J.: 1994.

Many of the birthmothers recalled that the other hospitalized mothers were showered with flowers and candy, while video cameras recorded the happy event. The experience of the relinquishing mothers, particularly those in a closed adoption group, was far less of a celebration. While they valued the occasional physician and nurse who treated them like real mothers, they could recall very few of these situations. One mother poignantly described how she sneaked out of her hospital room late one night and made her way down to the nursery.

"I was scared to death that they would catch me. I just stood there at the nursery window with tears rolling down my face, looking at all the babies trying to see which one of them was mine. I thought I would die when a nurse opened the door and asked me what I wanted. I just cried and cried and told her my baby was in the nursery and was being placed for adoption. She said to come in, that wonderful woman took me into the nursery and let me sit in a rocking chair and hold my baby. I just sat there crying and rocking."

Common advice from the family, nurses, physicians, and social workers included "pretend the adoption is a miscarriage", or "Oh, you'll get over it". "Why you'll forget it after you have another baby."

The hospital experience culminated with the birth mother signing the adoption papers. This experience was described as "numbing" and "amnesic". Many described feelings of "checking out" and "leaving my body", or not even remember signing anything.

1996.

UNCHARTED TERRITORY.

Logan. J, 1996, reports on the findings of a study conducted by the Mental Health Foundation which examined the experiences and needs of birthmothers who relinquished children for adoption.

Adoption is a violent act, a political act of aggression towards a woman who has supposedly offended the sexual mores by committing the unforgivable act of not suppressing her sexuality, and therefore not keeping it for trading purposes through traditional marriage. . . the crime is a grave one, for she threatens the very fabric of our society. The penalty is severe. She is stripped of her child by a variety of subtle and not so subtle maneuvers and then brutally abandoned. How many are set free? How many (birthmothers) remain trapped inside an emotional nightmare with unresolved death as a lonely companion? (Shawyer.1979).

Historically, birthparents have been the most neglected party in the adoption triangle: both in the literature and in the practice they have been afforded little attention compared with the adopted people and the adoptive parents.

Shawyers analysis showed that birthmothers are deemed to have wronged, need to be punished and are therefore not worthy of attention. A study by Baran et al. . (1977) revealed bias and ambiguity in the attitudes of mental health professionals towards women who relinquished their children.

On interviewing mental health staff they were told that these women had sinned, suffered and deserved to be left alone. While Baran's research was conducted some time ago, the findings in this study indicate little positive change. Perhaps the most important findings of this study and one that has not been reported elsewhere, is the way in which the medical profession responds to birthmothers. Research has shown that relatively few women who suffer depression are referred by their GPs for specialist psychiatric help. Yet this study has demonstrated that a significant proportion of birthmothers (32%) were referred to specialist services. The referral rate of relinquishing women therefore is considerably higher than that of women in the general population who suffer depression. This raises some interesting questions: given the pivotal role of GPs in defining the boundaries of mental illness, are birthmothers more seriously mentally ill than other women that suffer depression? Is this therefore an indication of the impact of relinquishment or an indication of the way they are perceived by the medical profession?

1990s.

MULTIPLE PERSONALITY & DISSOCIATION.

Dissociation is a mental process which produces a lack of connection in a person's thoughts, memories, feelings, actions, or sense of identity. During the period of time when a person is dissociating, certain information is not associated with other information as it normally would be.

For example, during a traumatic experience, a person may dissociate the memory of the place and the circumstances of the trauma from his ongoing memory, resulting in a temporary mental escape from fear and pain of the trauma and in some cases, a memory gap surrounding the experience. Because this process can produce changes in memory, people who frequently dissociate often find their senses of personal history and identity are affected.

Most clinicians believe that dissociation exists on a continuum of severity. At one end are mild dissociative experiences common to most people such as daydreaming, highway hypnosis, or "getting lost" in a movie or book all of which involves "losing touch" with conscious awareness of ones immediate surroundings.

At the other extreme, is complex chronic dissociation, in such cases of MPD and DD, which may result in serious impairment or inability to function.

The symptoms of MPD/DD; may include the following, depression, mood swings, suicidal tendencies, sleep disorders (insomnia, night terrors, and sleep walking) panic attacks and phobias (flashbacks, reactions to stimuli or triggers), alcohol, and drug abuse, compulsions and rituals, psychotic-like symptoms (including auditory and visual hallucinations) and eating disorders.

In addition, individuals with MPD/DD can experience headaches, amnesias, time loss, trances, and "out of body experiences" Some people with MPD/DD have a tendency toward self-persecution, self sabotage and even violence (both self inflicted and outwardly directed).

MOTHERS OF CHILDREN WHO WERE SEPARATED FROM THEIR BABIES AT BIRTH

- Unmarried mother who resided in Unmarried Mother's home
And directly available to Adoption Agencies
Allowing administration papers to be prepared prior to the
Baby's birth and advice to hospital social worker and staff (Baby for
Adoption)
- Unmarried mother who resided in her own home and attended a public
Hospital for medical care and who came
Under the attention of the Hospital Social Worker allowing
Administration papers to be prepared by the hospital social worker
Prior to the baby's birth (baby for adoption) and then her
Notification to Adoption Agencies (Religious) if not Hospital's own adoption
agency.
- Of these mothers whose babies were adopted through Church adoption
agencies did not sign consent at the hospital but at the adoption agency. They
were not allowed access to their baby in the hospital and were still under a
drug hypnotic state until consent was signed.
- Unmarried mothers who came from interstate and used false names.
Administration papers put into place before the birth of the baby for the
hospital to act upon immediately the birth occurred.
- Unmarried mothers whose babies were fathered by Catholic Priests
- Unmarried mothers whose babies were conceived through rape, adulterous
relationships or incest.
- Married mothers whose husband was not the father of the baby.
- Married mothers whose husband was the father of the child.
- The widowed mother whose husband had died but baby conceived through an
affair.
- Unmarried mothers under the age of 15 threatened with the calling of police to
have father of her baby charged with rape of a minor.
- Mother in a de-facto relationship.
- Mother whose partner was a prisoner.
- Young migrant mothers entering Australia on a temporary visa or were
pregnant when they arrived in Australia.

PRAYER BEFORE BIRTH
Louis Macniece (1907 -)

I am not yet born; O hear me.
Let not the bloodsucking bat or the rate or the stoat or the clubfooted ghouel come near me.

I am not yet born; console me.
I fear that the human race may with tall walls wall me, with strong drugs dope me.

With wise lies lure me, on black racks rack me, in blood baths roll me.

I am not yet born, provide me
With water to dandle me, grass to grow me, trees to talk to me, sky to sing to me, birds and a white light in the back of my mind to guide me.

I am not yet born; forgive me
For the sins that in me the world shall commit, my words when they speak me, my thoughts when they think me, my treason engendered by traitors beyond me, my life when they murder by means of my hands, my death when they live me.

I am not yet born, rehearse me
In the parts I must play and the cues I must take when old men lecture me, bureaucrats hector me, mountains frown at me, lovers laugh at me, the white waves call me to folly and the desert calls me to doom and the beggar refuses my gift and my children curse me.

I am not yet born; O hear me
Let the man who is beast or who thinks he is God come near me.

I am not yet born; O fill me
With strength against those who would freeze my humanity, would dragoon me into a lethal automaton, would make me a cog in a machine, a thing with one face, a thing, and against all those who would dissipate my entirety, would blow me like thistledown hither and thither or hither and thither like water held in the hands would spill me.

Let then not make me a stone and let then not spill me. Otherwise kill me.

Note: These words are so relevant to the separation of mother and baby. Not only did our babies suffer separation they also suffered it again by being separating to another being.



IT IS A STATEMENT OF LAW

IF YOU KNOW A CRIME IS BEING COMMITTED

AND DO NOT SPEAK UP

YOU ARE ALSO GUILTY OF THE CRIME

AND THE EXCUSE OF IGNORANCE OF THE LAW

IS NOT AN ACCEPTABLE EXCUSE UNDER THE RULE OF LAW

Father's Rights

Adoption of Children's Act (NSW) 1965 s.31c

“On receipt of a notice that consent has been signed the putative father may file a notice with the Court for an order for care, custody and guardianship of the child. The court must determine such an application before considering any application for adoption of the child and may join any party to the putative father's application as it thinks fit. The court may then make an order for the care, custody or guardianship of the child as it thinks fit. This would have the effect of cancelling the guardianship of the child by any other person”.

Further if the mother had of died during birth the guardianship of the baby under law was automatically bestowed on the father of the baby.

