

THIS SUBMISSION IS BEING DONE IN HONOUR OF MY BIRTH MOTHER
WHO WAS BORN ON THE JULY
1929 AND WHO HAS SADLY PASSED MARCH 1997.

GAVE BIRTH TO ME

ON THE 30TH DECEMBER 1952, I NEVER MET MY MOTHER
BUT AT 51 YRS OF AGE I TRAVELLED TO PERTH TO
MEET MY TWO SISTERS AND A BROTHER.

WHILST IN PERTH I WAS TAKEN TO WHERE ASHES
WERE SCATTERED AND I WAS GIVEN AN ARTICLE FROM
THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN NEWSPAPER.

I HEARD HARROWING STORIES OF THE PAIN THAT MY MOTHER
WENT THROUGH ALL HER LIFE, MAINLY ATTRIBUTED TO BY
HER ADOPTING ME OUT.

SHE HAD ADMISSIONS TO THE HEATHCOTE MENTAL RECEPTION
HOME AND THE GRAYLANDS PSYCHIATRIC HOSPITAL.

THE ORIGINAL PHOTOS THAT GOES WITH THE WA NEWSPAPER
ARTICLE WAS STILL IN MY MOTHERS POSSESSIONS RIGHT
UP UNTIL SHE PASSED AWAY.

MY SISTERS AND ANOTHER STEP
SISTER SEARCHED THE ARCHIVES TO FIND THE ARTICLE
AS THE ORIGINAL PHOTO HAD A STAMP ON THE BACK
OF IT THE WESTERN AUSTRALIAN.

IT EVEN STATES THE DATE THAT IT WAS TAKEN
WHEN I WAS TWO YEARS OF AGE.
AFTER I WAS BORN AND THREE YEARS TO THE DAY
MY SISTER WAS BORN ON THE DECEMBER 1955.

THIS MUST HAVE TORMENTED HER ALL OF HER
LIFE AND SHE WAS MOST PROBABLY FORCED AND
PRESSURED TO RELINQUISH ME BECAUSE SHE WAS
A SINGLE MOTHER AND NO ONE WOULD HELP HER.
BEFORE SHE PASSED AWAY SHE ASKED MY SISTERS
TO PLEASE SEARCH AND FIND ME.

I ALSO FOUND A SUBMISSION IN THE SENATE COMMITTEE REPORT FORGOTTEN AUSTRALIANS COMMUNITY AFFAIRS REFERENCE COMMITTEE PAGE 108 4.59

THE REMOVAL OF THE BABY AND OFFERING FOR ADOPTION WAS OFTEN UNDERTAKEN BY DURESS OR IN SOME INSTANCES DECEPTION.

ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO KEEP THE BABY AND LEGAL RIGHTS WERE NOT EXPLAINED.

IT WAS GIVEN THAT YOU HAD TO GIVE UP YOUR ~~BABY~~ ^{CHILD} FOR ADOPTION TO STAY IN THE HOME (ALEXANDRA HOME, HIGHGATE). THE MATRON MADE IT CLEAR THAT MY BABY WAS NOT "MY BABY" - THERE WAS NO WAY I WAS GOING TO KEEP "IT" IF I WANTED TO STAY IN THE HOME I HAD NO WHERE ELSE TO GO.

THERE WAS NO PRIVACY IN THE HOME ONLY IN THE BATHROOM, AS WE SLEPT IN A DORMITORY AND WORKED IN THE KITCHEN AND LAUNDRY.

NEITHER THEY THE "WELFARE" NOR ANY SOCIAL WORKER CAME NEAR ME, LET ALONE EXPLAIN ANY OF THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE BY A SPECIAL PAYMENT FROM THE GOVERNMENT FOR A FEMALE TO STAY AT HOME AND LOOK AFTER A RELATIVE, THE LAYETTE, THE FOOD ASSISTANCE, BAB BONUS AND CHILD ALLOWANCE AND/OR AN ADDITIONAL BENEFIT, NOT WEALTH BY ANY MEANS, BUT AT LEAST A CHANCE FOR US TO GET ON OUR FEET AND STAY TOGETHER

(SUB 97) SHE CRUELLY PROMOTED ADOPTION ABOVE MY RIGHTS TO KNOW OF ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS TO KEEP MY OWN CHILD. I WAS NOT INFORMED OF SOCIAL WELFARE BENEFITS, THAT WERE AVAILABLE TO ME AT THE TIME... I WAS NOT EVEN TOLD THAT I DID NOT HAVE TO SIGN A CONSENT FORM.

I REMEMBER BEING MADE TO SIT AT A DESK, I WAS SOBBING AND YELLING FOR MY BABY AND ALL I GOT WAS THIS NUN PUSHING PAPERS UNDER MY FACE AND TELLING ME TO SIGN HERE, HERE AND HERE (SUB 109).

IT MUST HAVE TRULY BEEN HORRIFIC FOR THESE MOTHERS TO HAVE GONE THROUGH THIS WITH NO ONE TO HELP THEM.

MY SISTERS HAVE TOLD ME THAT MY MOTHER NEVER EVER GOT OVER IT AND SHE SUFFERED ALL HER LIFE.

I HAVE OFTEN WONDERED WAS THERE A BABY MARKET, WAS THERE A FINANCIAL INCENTIVE FOR THESE INSTITUTIONS TO HAND OVER SO MANY BABIES TO COMPLETE STRANGERS?

BRIAN CHERRIE

P.S. NO COMPENSATION WAS OFFERED FROM REDRESS W.A.