

Preamble to Submission

I Gabrielle Ann McGuire am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident in
NSW

As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia I have an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution and the Common Law of this country

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

Senate of Australia Parliamentary Inquiry

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

Terms of Reference

That the following matters be referred to the Community

Affairs References Committee for inquiry and report

by 30 April 2011:

- (a) the role, if any, of the Commonwealth Government, its policies and practices in contributing to forced
- (b) adoptions; and (b) the potential role of the Commonwealth in developing a national framework to assist states and territories to address the consequences for the mothers, their families and children who were subject to forced adoption policies

Senate inquiry

NOTE: This is part 2 of my submission and is to be read in conjunction with my first submission already submitted under my name. I also wish to make it known that I would like to talk at the enquiry.

After years of inquiries and speaking out and hoping this nightmare would end, I had recently resigned myself to the fact that it is unlikely I will get justice in my lifetime and my children would not hear the truth, it is like the final nail in the coffin, to now hear there is a senate inquiry and a faint hope that it all might end. I am finding it very difficult to open up and write as I don't want to get my hopes up again, only to be silenced. I have written this in the hope that others can realize the enormity of the issue and that this will help the wider community start to really question the aspect of adoption and the consequences as well as the need for serious thought around the long term implications.

What needs to happen around reunion

The public need to be aware of the importance of reunions by acknowledging that there was a union in the first place. The belief was that there was no bonding at that time. We know now that the bond has been damaged and we are now trying to re-kindle the original bond. In order to do that there needs to be a real public awareness and people

need to be discouraged from preventing reunions. For instance, people are telling adoptees just to leave it alone.. There needs to be an acknowledgement that the adoption was wrong and a mistake and that it is in the child's best interest to reunite with their mother.

History of adoption - How I see it

The methods used since the 40's have changed. As women are becoming more educated and able to think for themselves, blind obedience to authority is less effective. The system started to play on the strong bond between mother and child, and the "if you love your baby" was widely used. When the system started using this term "if you love your baby", it is clear that they were fully aware of the strong bond between mother and child, they also knew that taking the baby at birth was the best time as this is when the mother's protective instincts are at their highest, and she will do anything to protect her baby. Using the excuse of "well meaning" could never ever possibly be used in this case, all concerned were well aware of what they were doing.

Effects of adoption

If what were taken were dogs or cats, and they settled into their new house, one might say to leave sleeping dogs lie (excuse the pun), but these are human beings, with a soul and spirit, that was there before conception and will continue after death(if you believe in God)and since so many babies were taken by the church organizations, one must assume many of these people believed in God and the after life.

What we know about bonding and genetic connections.

Firstly, the image of the mother is implanted in the babies mind during pregnancy, so at birth the baby will recognise it's mother over a stranger, many natural birthing clinics know this is so important for the baby to bond, so they have little or no contact with the baby, allowing the mothers to bond with baby. The myth of giving a healthy newborn to an infertile stranger is totally debunked, the baby does know its own mother at birth. During pregnancy, the baby is totally surrounded by the mother and a part of her, the baby knows its mothers moods, smells, heart beat rhythms, and probably auras and other things we can't see.

At birth the baby sees mummy and smells her and says yes this is mummy I am safe and secure. But in adoption, the baby cant find mummy, all these strangers pick baby up, they don't look right they don't smell right, nothing about them is familiar, Baby constantly cries and searches for mummy, but does not find her. Adopted babies are very hard to settle.

As for surrogacy, the baby is implanted with the genetic imprint of the genetic mother, but can smell and sense the surrogate, so when these babies are born, and are picked up

by “gestational carrier” baby says yummy this smells and feels like mummy, but doesn't look like her, this is very confusing. When baby is transferred to genetic mother, baby says yes she looks like mummy, but oh no she doesn't smell and feel right, baby is confused.

When this information is widely understood, how many people are going to brag about adopting or surrogacy. Adoption and surrogacy will die, and only a few deranged people will do this. Women will learn that if they are infertile, there is no substitute baby, just accept it. But sadly, a lot of people make money out of these industries to allow them to die easily. Child trafficking uses adoption to launder the babies, once some one says oh its adopted, nobody questions further, there is this blind belief that is must be legit. Once adoption dies, child trafficking will struggle to survive

What sort of relationship develops between adopter and adoptee

A bond (the word bond is used to mean becoming one, where 2 layers melt together and no seam is detected) does not develop, what does develop is a pathological attachment, where the infertile person, has not come to terms with their infertility and tries to pretend they are a mother, they cling desperately to these “babies”. The adoptee, desperately seeking mummy clings to all they have, the adopter, who are constantly told by society that this clinging is actually love then develops a warped sense of what love is. The adopter has all the power in this relationship, and until they take their claws out. The adoptee will be torn to shreds if they are pulled out. So many adoptees go searching for their mothers at the funeral of the female adopter, once she dies her claws fall out.

Do the vast majority of adoptees suffer from **stockholm syndrome**? I would say Yes

Does adoption cure infertility.

No, the woman is still infertile but now she is lying to herself that she is a mother, this seems to prolong the pain and suffering, we are not doing women a service by keeping them in fantasy land.

I am not going to go into detail in this area, as so much research already confirms what I have just said about bonding.

Now that we are well aware that adoption is wrong and illegal, what are we going to do about it.

There have been a number of state parliamentary inquiries, all coming to the same conclusion, so I don't need to repeat what has already been discovered.

What was the result of all these parliamentary inquiries, did they change anything? For me, very little. For the hundreds of people I have talked to about this subject, maybe 50r

6 actually believed me. Many were polite, “oh that is interesting”, “really”, “I’ve never heard of that”, and then “would you like a cup of tea dear”; many have been down right abusive, and deny this could happen in wonderful Australia; many know it happened and wish to keep it secret; many just don’t care. This reaction seems to be consistent no matter where I go, though some circles are slightly more open than others. It doesn’t matter if it is with politicians, media, doctors, social workers, family, friends, work mates, members of various groups I belong to, or perfect strangers. I feel confident to say that this attitude would be the norm throughout Australia.

Has there been any action taken since the State parliamentary inquiries, has anyone got up and done something. No not really. Ok, they aren’t taking as many babies now, but babies are still being taken, and adoptive parents are still seen as heroes, Nicole Kidman- surrogacy, Angelina Jolie- adoption. To add insult to injury, these women are representatives for the UN, as if what they are doing is a wonderful thing. Mother of the year awards generally go to an adopter. We need to separate mother from carer. By all means have carer of the year awards and give them to foster carers and guardians, people that truly deserve our admiration. But mother of the year awards should go to mothers, maybe this year a mother who has searched and found her children, but please, no more adopters.

Has any of these inquiries made my life any easier. In a word, no, in fact it has made it more difficult. Those involved in these crimes have tried to hush things up, keep me quiet, discredit me and accuse me of child abuse and insanity. I am sure I am not the only mother being persecuted for speaking out. The adopters seem to be digging their claws deeper into these “babies”, many adoptees have become more defensive of their captors.

So how would I like people to react when they hear that adoption is not what we have been lead to believe, that the babies were taken , that it was not in their best interest and both the mother and babies suffer life long grief.

“oh my god that is terrible and what can I do to help”. The adoption scandal has received plenty of media coverage, but so little action, why as a society do we suffer from collective inertia, what is stopping people from, getting out there and ending this trauma.

I have just been watching the situation in Egypt, where the president has just stepped down. It appears 30 years of repression, while the outside world propped him up. Why. We can look at other revolutions and how finally the people have had enough, and collectively they act and a decisive victory ensures. So why are we not getting the same for this adoption issue. Is it because the mothers so traumatized are silent, is it because the adopted, are suffering from the stockholm syndrome, and will defend their captors.

Is it because society isn't ready to deal with this yet.

I ask myself often, what would need to happen for this revolution, where the children just came back home, let go the adopter and started to develop bonds with their mothers and families. Attacking the adopters is not the solution, as our children will defend them. Speaking out, doesn't seem to work. I have been speaking out for over 12 years and all I get is abuse and hurt. Is it a time issue, all the facts are there, maybe we just have to wait for the jury to come back. Should I get my hopes up that this inquiry is going to make any difference, and then suffer the agonizing let down when nothing much comes of it. I don't think I have it in me to take another knock back. It is very difficult to get enthused and write a really powerful submission, when the chances are it will backfire on me and I will suffer more pain again, like during the NSW Parliamentary inquiry.

I currently have a token relationship with my daughter, we catch up a few times a year, in a public place, little hug, take the grandkids to the zoo, they run a muck, we eat junk food and the kids get over tired so we say good bye till maybe next time. If I do anything deeper, like send a birthday card and sign Mum, I don't hear from her for 6 months, she calls me by my first name and so do my grandkids, I don't know anyone who has to suffer the indignity of being addressed by my grand children by my first name. Since we have been having these nice little meetings, I have had to give up work as I cannot cope with the stress, of this "claytons" relationship, my ability to function at daily activities is deteriorating and I am running out of steam.

Why can't that woman just say sorry it was wrong to take her and she should go home to her mother, no, she digs her claws in further, using guilt and "you should be grateful".

If someone asked me what could they do to help what would I say

Next time you meet an adoptee or adopter, ask them have they gone back home yet, and if not why not, ask adopters have they let go and allowing these adoptees to return home or have they put conditions on them, ie yes go and meet your mother, but just remember who raised you and who really loves you.

The myth of Adoption

In all aspects of life now we are asked if we are of Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, as this has implications, and rightly so, the marginalised people need all the help they can get. The same should happen for adoption. Where a form asked for aboriginal descent, it should also ask if you are effected by adoption. Before another adoption is signed should the mother be counseled by someone fully aware of the damage to the mother and the child, and offer her all support. Is Nicole Kidman going to pay for her "gestational carrier's "medical and mental health problems for the rest of

the mothers life. Does her gestational carrier get visiting rights.

It would be good if Australia banned not only adoption but all forms of surrogacy as well as making it illegal to bring children here that were acquired overseas. Look at little Haiti, one of the poorest countries, but their priorities are right, they oppose adoption, as best they can. They should be honored for such bravery.

I want a law in place that penalizes media every time they write an untruth about adoption. I want everyone involved in appalling adoption scandal charged and the full weight of the law thrown at them. I want a law enacted that would prevent anyone from interfering with reunions.

Getting back to the inquiry, and the federal govt role.

I was under the impression that adoption was a state issue, so I was very surprised by the Family Court's behaviour in removing my other children when I published my book about adoption. Why did they react so badly if they were not scared of being implicated.

I would like to also say that this adoption issue coincides with mothers having babies in hospitals, before the 40's babies were born at home, and the system would not have got their hands on the babies. And anyone who has been an inpatient at hospital knows how intimidating the hospital system is, it appears to thrive on creating compliance.

Simple no cost steps that should be taken immediately.

- Ø Remove care arrangement from hospitals, mothers only go to hospitals for medical reasons. All care arrangements to be made in a place that is pro-mother hood.
 - Ø Aboriginal people are encouraged to go back and find their roots. Yet, non-aboriginals it is thought that they don't need to. It is essential that all aspects of society be made fully aware of the need for adopted ones to go home, and not just as a token gesture or to get medical history.
 - Ø One of the biggest obstacles to going home is the adoptees referring to the adopter as mum, this is so destructive to rebuilding a healthy bond with mother and family, so many mothers cannot cope hearing this they fade away from relationships rather than hear this, it is too painful.
 - Ø During the inquiry please use correct terminology, ie.
 - Mother not birth mother
 - Adopter, female adopter, not mother or adoptive mother(they are not mothers)I don't know what is the correct term required for the stolen child- maybe we can get clarity on this one.
- The use of the term triangle as it is not a triangle as it is not three equal parts. There is the mother and child which is the union and the adopter is not part of that

union.

Policies and procedures need to not only exist but they need to be effective and monitored so that no mistake happens again. The issue is also permanent and terminal which could be compared with the practices surrounding suicide, capital punishment and euthanasia issues. Adoption should be in the same realm as these issues and should not be taken lightly.

Debugging the adoption is a panacea myth

I believe for the adoption industry to be so successful, they had to create an elaborate plausible story. Firstly, that there was a pool of available babies and secondly, that taking a healthy new born is just as good as having your own. Accept that, there is no pool of available babies, they have to be taken from someone.

I have recently heard many comments made by celebrities regarding whether they would have their own or adopt. There is no choice this needs to become common knowledge. If women have not conceived by the age of 35, the chances of getting pregnant are very slim.

Pregnant women need to know that it is natural to feel inadequate to raise a child, everyone does, and it is impossible to raise a child on your own, if you do not have a good husband and extended family, you then need the support of the wider community. All mothers can develop into wonderful parents given the chance.

Disunity amongst the mothers' groups

Even though the mothers groups are all together for the same reason, little differences have developed, which is perfectly normal, but sadly these differences are being used as tools to keep the groups from uniting. We need to remember that all the mothers involved have had the most insidious torture forced upon them, and so can see the world with 'different coloured glasses' at times. These mothers groups need help to unite and work together.

What I believe is needed is a forum, where all the different mothers groups and individuals, involved can work together and form a united voice. It is inappropriate to have social workers, adoptive parents or adoptees (suffering the stockholm syndrome) present, as this causes so much more hurt and suffering to the mothers;

What is the best way to get the message out there

Acknowledging the truth will go some way. Hopefully, it will stop the media running happy adoption stories, to counterattack any progress made.

Professionals need to be seriously educated, for example, a few days after the prime minister apologised to the care leavers, I spoke to a number of psychologists and social workers, not one of them had even heard of the issue. I would be most happy to give lectures and talks to any level from media to professionals. I would also like to be involved in writing programs and subject matter for professionals, during their study and professional development. Schools curriculum's need to correct their history. Possibly a whole subject on our shady past. I believe a lot work now needs to be done to right the wrongs.

Financial compensation

As a prominent politician once said “no amount of money could make up for this injustice”. This is a fair enough comment but should not be used to do nothing.

Counseling training

Serious amounts of counseling needs to take place, but I recommend only by those accredited with adoption counseling. All types of counselors must ask clients if they are affected by adoption and in turn only see their clients if the counselors are adoption accredited.

Money does need to be allocated for training counselors and also to provide free counseling. I believe, PARC in NSW has gone some way to addressing the subject but is inappropriate to continue as they do as I feel that they do not tell the true story to clients.

Medical costs

Many victims of this adoption scandal suffer a number of medical conditions. Thus, a life long health care card would be appropriate.

Income support.

It takes a vast amount of time to process all of what has gone on, many victims would benefit from income support and the ability to work part time. During the time I was reuniting with my daughter and all the associated effects on the rest of my children, I could not manage full time work. I requested part time work but was denied so had to resign. This was a government job with the local council, as far as I am aware when mothers come off maternity leave they can have as long as they need including working only a few hours a week. This should be available to mothers of stolen children and there is a need for an awareness of this issue in the public.

During the time of my early reuniting efforts I had spoken to my HR manager, who was most supportive and allow me to use up any entitlements. I asked could I have 3 months maternity leave, but was refused. Yet a few weeks later at a staff meeting, he

said that there was a suggestion to give adoptive parents 3 months maternity leave if they acquire a baby. This really was the final straw, I realised I could no longer function in a “normal” workplace and be exposed to such cruelty. I resigned a short time later.

Compensation for pain and suffering

I think I will leave that open for discussion.

Liability

Should anybody be sued here?

Conclusion

Acknowledging the issue is just the first step in the long road to recovery and healing. Unless the understanding of adoption and the concept of bonding and attachment is grasped fully and acknowledged then surrogacy will step in to replace it.