

**Senate Inquiry into
"Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption
policies and practices."**

Preamble to Submission

**IYour Name.....am a citizen of the
Commonwealth of Australia resident in ...State.**

**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**

Follow this Preamble with your submission

Carol Behrend now
Carol Helmrich

MY STOLEN BABY GIRL,

I was going out with this really nice boy and after 2 ½ years I became pregnant to him, we talked about what we would do and decided we would get married and keep our baby, this was not to be.

My mother realised I was pregnant and made me go to our doctor for an examination the doctor did the exam and ordered me to go outside while he spoke with my mother, I was only 15 years old, the doctor told my mother I was to go to (...)

to the clinic for regular exams to make sure the baby was OK. The first visit there was like I had committed a crime they sent me to a social worker who asked a lot of questions and then told me you know we have to report this to the Police, I asked why she said you are under age and the person who did this to you will be charged with carnal knowledge and the baby must be put up for adoption you are far too young to look after this baby. My answer to this was a definite No my boyfriend was working and was happy to look after both of us.

The next thing I was told I was to appear at Darlinghurst Police station to give a statement about how I became pregnant and to tell who the boy was, the Police did not give me any oppositions for any kind of legal council and I had no way of knowing if I had any rights about any of this. The Police took me to an interview room where a Police officer sitting in front of a typewriter told me I was to describe the circumstances of how I became pregnant I started to cry, I was told you have to do this for the court hearing. I was so upset and could not stop crying the Police officer just sat there and asked, tell me where you were when you had sex and did you take all your cloths off and what happened then, did this boy make you have sex or were you willing. After I gave my statement still in tears they told me you can go now.

The next thing the Police arrived at my home they told me this boy is going to be charged with carnal knowledge and you will have to give your baby up as we can check on you regularly and charge you as an unfit mother if you try going to work or anything like that my mother and father gave me no support at all, I did not know where to turn.

The next visit to the clinic at (...) hospital I had my regular check up and I was told do not leave the hospital without seeing the social worker, I went to her office and she told me you know you have to give up your baby you are too young to look after it, without any support you have no money we can have the authorities take your baby away from you so you may as well consent to adoption now. No I want to keep my baby, the social worker then told me the baby's father could end up in goal then what will you do. This social worker continued to insist on telling me every visit that I must give up my baby, they could find a good home for my baby and I would never be able to give my baby the thing an adopting family could give my baby.

I went into labour early in the morning on the 18th of March 1968 my baby GIRL was born around 7pm on the 18th of March 1968. I should not have given natural birth I was too small as I cried out in pain I saw my boyfriend outside the door I called for him

repeatedly and they would not allow him to come near me he wanted to be there for the birth of our baby, instead the hospital security was called and he was taken out side and not allowed to return, when my baby was born they laid her on my stomach and I thought I was going to be able to hold her instead a nurse took her and she said they had to clean her up and I never saw her again, I was so badly torn from the birth they had to give me many stitchers then they gave me pain killers, and injections for any infection although the injections were putting me to sleep, the pills and injections continued all the time I was in hospital, I asked can I see my baby please take me to her, I was told NO your baby is to be adopted no she isn't I am taking her home, I was left in a ward with other mothers with new baby's who could not work out why I cried all the time and no one would talk to me. The day after my baby was born a person who said they were a child welfare officer came to me with paper work that they said was a consent form for the adoption of my baby, no my baby is going home with me, you better give that some thought you have no means of supporting a child, every day the same person came to me and said you should sign this consent form for adoption and on the 22nd of March 1968 under duress I signed I have never forgiven myself and neither has my baby's Father and he was never acknowledged in any way except for his personal details, height, weight, and the colour of his eyes his name was not put on our baby's birth certificate, and I had requested this be included.

After 42 years of tears and heart ache both my baby's Father and I are suffering from depression and a sense of loss for the child we should have been allowed to raise. Every waking hour my daughter is on my mind all the special occasions I have missed her first smile her first words her first wave. The abundant LOVE I have for her she has never known.

The Law changes in 1998 allowed me to find and contact my Daughter I sent her a letter, she hates me so much for what she thinks I did she made a visit to her solicitor and had him return my letter unopened attached to a letter from him telling me I was not to contact her or have any member of my immediate family contact her at any time.

THE BARSTARDS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS SHOULD HANG
UNFORTUNATELY MOST OF THEM ARE ALREADY DEAD AND MY RIGHTS
AS A CHILD WERE TOTALLY IGNORED I GAVE BIRTH AT 16.

Carol Helmrich
22/11/2010.