

## SENATE INQUIRY IN FORCED ADOPTIONS

My submission is from the point of view of the person who is adopted

I was made a ward of the state in Dec. 1936, at the age of 19mths., due to being charged as a neglected child. I was boarded out 3 times the last placement occurred when I was 4 and a half years fo age

Yearly visits by the dept. was supposed to ensure my safety etc. Two years after arriving my name was changed to that of the foster parents. Despite the fact that I was a boarder.

I began searching for my parents when I was about fourteen, to the extent that I went to the Dept and asked for information.

Just before (2 weeks) my 18th Birthday the Dept. secretly arranged my adoption without my consent, knowledge, or presence, or that of my parents. This was also despite the fact they knew very little about the family they were in dealings with. As a result I tried to commit suicide and over the years there were other negative reactions.

The effect of adoptions in 1953 are well known. To all extent and purposes your family are annihilated like they never existed. No medical, cultural, family , photos nothing. No faces no memories nothing. I changed my name and tried to live a life where the past didnt exist.

In 2000I went to court and had the Adoption discharged.. As a Forgotten Australian I am of the opion that despitedthat Inquiry the Govt. Departments have never accepted responsibilty for their behaviour, It was the Churches that bore the blame. **BUT WE WERE STATE WARDS NOT CHURCH WARDS.** This is a brief outline, I would be happy to speak to this submission, if you see fit.