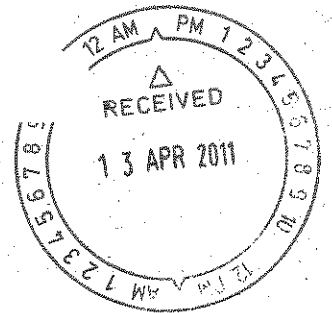


To "Senate Inquiry into
Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption
policies & practices"

April 2011.

Kim Lawrence now Kym Kenny.



A mother that had to give up her baby for adoption.

Well I gave up a baby for adoption in March 1970
at Crown Street Women's Hospital Sydney.

I was only 16 to 17 at that stage.
I was not going to abort my baby at this time.
But I had to give him away.

I was never told about all my options at that age
or that I could look after my baby myself, with help.

We were forced to sign the adoption papers after days
of asking & badgering that this was the best thing
to do, so that childless couples will bring up your child/
baby, will have a better life without us.

We were drugged with Sparine, Pentobarb, Fergon,
Pethidine, Diethylstilboestrol,
We were so spaced out of our minds, (if you told us
to jump this high we would have)

We would have signed anything being in that state.

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' Under the Child Welfare Act 17 - 1939.'

"A Mother giving an adoption consent must be fully aware of the import of her action and must be emotionally & mentally able to appreciate all implications of such consent.

A consent should not be taken if there is any suggestion of indecisiveness or that she has not given sufficient consideration to the matter."

"To avoid any misunderstanding or any suggestion that the Mother was misled or uninformed, District Officers are instructed to explain fully to the mother, before taking the consent, the facilities which are available to help her keep the child."
" ↑ This was not done!!! ↑

These include homes licensed under the Child Welfare Act for the private care of children apart from natural parents, financial assistance to unmarried mothers under section 27 of the Child Welfare Act, admission to state control until the mother is in a position to care for her child, & assistance to affiliate the child & obtain a maintenance order against the putative father, when all of these aids have been rejected, the officer is expected to explain to the mother the full implications of the ~~act~~ act of surrendering her child. (This included warning her of the risk of dire future regret if she considers adoption, should the consent be accepted.)

↑ None of this was done or told to us ↑

"We were told all the time, that you must give up your baby, because other older people needed & wanted our babies more than we did, & we were told to sign papers, we need to get better & go back home & forget that you ever had a baby & get on with our lives"

But how could we do that when we were children having children, & giving away a part of us.

Also that we would be put in prison if we ever got in touch with our children.

But how do you forget the child that we brought into this world.

All the years growing up & all the first things to Teenagers to Adults.

We as children having children we found a way for having illegitimate children out of wedlock.

To give it to Real Parents, as we were not parents, only children, we could have more when we all grow up & that we could not look after them as well as the Adoptive People could, but they were strangers.

The pain never goes away, that we all gave away our babies.

We were told to forget what had happened, but we cannot. It will be with us all our lives.

It has affected us in so many ways, by getting married so early, married, children, divorced.

We are all trying to find ~~an~~ a void that will never be filled.

Maybe if we can see our children, if it happens.

Some do not want to meet, because we gave up our children, we were too young, old, other people would look after them better.

I have this pain in my heart that will never go away because of what we were forced to do.

We regret it every day, year, specially on their Birthdays, Easter, Christmas, all thers ~~in~~ our lives.

Please change the law
Please let us have our kids back
some how.

Please take away the pain
which I know you can't not.

We hold our secrets in our hearts ~~in~~ the pain, nobody knows ~~except~~ other

Mothers who were told to give up our babies for life.

Crying Mothers all over the world.

We must have hope.