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I (...) am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident in Victoria.

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.

I Believe that being an adoptee has profoundly affected my life in negative ways. I believe that all choices I have made in my life have been directly influenced by my primal wound that I have carried for my life and only just begun to recognize.

I believe that the commonwealth government and adoption homes of the past need to acknowledge that forced adoption not only effected the relinquishing mother but also adoptees and was in most cases not for the good of the child as was believed when I was born in 1970.

I believe that the commonwealth Government and adoption homes are directly responsible for the thousands of adoptions that took place in the past due to lack of recognition given to single mothers and their babies with no allowance or pension in place for them and no support offered.

This has directly affected my life in the fact I was not permitted to grow up with my three biological siblings and Mother and Father.

Due to the social structure of my biological family being destroyed at birth I have had many psychological issues.

I grew up thinking there must be something awfully wrong with me as my Mother "didn't want me". I grew up trying to fit into a family that had biologically nothing to do with me with adopted parents that failed to understand the child I was, always knowing I was adopted which gave me a profound sense that something was different about me.

The structure of my adopted family changed when I was eight with my adopted parents separating and divorcing and my adopted mother bearing most of the responsibility for me and my adopted brother, working full time and being a single mother in the late seventies and early eighties also resulting of the total breakdown of mine and my adopted father's relationship something that has never been ramified.

My Real mother and father married approx two years after I was born and stayed together until after our reunion in 1991

This has resulted in me having deep depression and being medicated for it in my life time, bad choices stemming from my lack of self esteem, identity issues, a life time battling various addictions, a deep sense of grief due to the destruction of my Biological family and several suicide attempts and yet as an adult adoptee I can't afford to think of what life could of been, I just have to be grateful for the life I do have but I still feel as if I have come off second best and so have my four children who have had to deal with the fact their mother has had deep emotional problems. This is a direct result of me being in a forced closed adoption at birth.

I believe that by the government acknowledging the truth about the "adoption industry" of the past will be a way for not only me but thousands of adoptees and relinquishing parents whose lives have been effected by the "social-cleansing" of the past to start to heal but the government needs to offer a lifetime of counseling for everyone effected by adoption.

I also think that government needs to look at redress as so many lives have been destroyed due to Forced Adoption leaving those with little ability to earn an income or have what would be considered a normal life. We all have been severely disadvantaged with Past Governmental Policies.

An adoptees trauma begins the minute they are taken from their mother, a

person that has done the most natural thing. . Been pregnant and birthed a baby.

Do people really believe that one would not be psychologically affected at such a traumatic entrance to the world or are we ignorant enough to think that babies have no feelings or any emotional attachments at birth. What happens at birth I believe has the most profound affect on a human soul. If it is a negative experience it leaves a baby confused, scared and emotionally scarred.

How could the adoption agencies and the government of the past think this was a good thing for new born?

To me it is one of the cruelest things one could do to a human soul, yet so many mothers including mine felt they had no choice, they were pressured into doing something that was against human nature, was against their mothering instinct. . . . so Many arms aching to hold unholdeable babies. I also have to question how a minor is able to sign such a paper as an adoption form without a witness? My adoption form speaks volumes, filled in by the social worker and the only writing on it from my Mother is a tiny signature, How tiny did she feel being bullied into something she had no understanding of the ramifications and why was she not informed of the 30 day cool off period. She didn't receive that form, nor was it explained to her. And how can a form be legal when it is signed under duress by a teenager who was hormonally going through something she had no understanding of.

From ADOPTION PSYCHOLOGY

Adoption: Trauma that Last a Life Time, Vicki M. Rumming

When the adoptee is separated from her birth mother, she undergoes extensive trauma. She will not remember this trauma, but it will stay in her subconscious as she lived it (Verrier, 1993). An event from a person's infancy can and will stay with them through life. An example of the subconscious effect of an early experience would be Marc. Marc was in an orphanage for the first year of his life. Because of the lack of human touch, he would rock himself in his crib. Marc is now 42 years old and still rocks himself whenever he is watching television, listening to music, or sitting on a park bench. He

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does not remember rocking himself as an infant, but this practice has stayed with him through his subconscious his entire life.

The adoptee will always carry this issue of abandonment with her wherever she goes. It is no different from when a husband leaves a wife. She may remarry to a wonderful man, but will always wonder if her new husband is also going to leave her. She must work through the abandonment issue to regain trust. The abandonment issue has to be acknowledged, before it can be resolved.

Even if the "primal wound" as described above was not a factor in the adoptees' emotional well being, the knowledge of abandonment will always be there. She may have been told she was "chosen" by the adoptive parents but it will not be long until she figures out she was abandoned by the first set of parents. Julie P. responded to a question on the Adoptees Internet Mailing List (an Internet support group that consists of approximately 1000 members) about the feeling of being adopted, "No, I am not depressed, miserable, angry, or negative...but I have always felt second best. Sure I was told that I was the (chosen) one, but first I was rejected." Regardless of the circumstances, it will always feel like abandonment to her.

I thank the senate for their time in this most important issue and I hope that you have understanding and compassion towards this horrific situation that many have survived through and many didn't.

Yours Sincerely

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