

Dear Committee,

On October 1972 I gave birth to a baby early in the morning in the Queen Victoria Hospital in Launceston Tasmania.

The baby was taken from me straight away and I was not allowed to know if it was a boy or girl and certainly was not allowed to hold or to see the child or know any details at all regarding it.

The adoption agency for the Tasmanian Government called a few days later to make me sign the child away. The ladies name was

and she asked me why I was so distressed, my mother was with me at the time and was asked to leave the room while she spoke to me by my own, I told her I did not wish to give up my child but was being forced by my mother to do so and desperately wanted to keep it. She then asked my mother to return to the room and then asked me to sign the papers to let the child be taken by them, I was still crying badly but signed the papers with a signature that was not mine as I did not want to let the child go.

did notate it on the papers that I did not want to give up the child but did not reason with my mother to let me keep the child seeing that I wanted to.

I have lived my life with a broken heart since that time and have never had another child or even picked up a baby in my life time untill 2011 this year when a friend who knew my story asked me to hold her new baby boy. I heard on the radio that you could now find your babies info from the adoption agency so in 2007 I searched for my baby and made contact on September 2007 and tried to form a relationship with him, his wife and my 2 grandchildren. All seemed to go well and I moved down to the Huon Valley to be near them, but my son could never get over his anger and hatred of me for not keeping him, so in 2009 he decided that I was not to make contact again and he took my two grandchildren away as well. So I lost my son in 1972 and again in 2009 and my two grandchildren as well, what do I have to live

For now, I have nothing left, many times I have considered taking my life, and I am sure there are so many more like me. How can a government take away mothers babies from them and leave them in such heart ache for the rest of their lives. This was just another case of the Stolen Generation. Some thing needs to be done to let these adopted children know that their birth mothers had no choice in this matter as most were only teenagers and had no rights back in the 50's, 60's or 70's until they were at least 21 years old.

Dorothy Patricia Macpherson ne Cooper.