

(...)

31 MARCH 2011

COMMONWEALTH CONTRIBUTION TO FORMER FORCED ADOPTION
POLICIES AND PRACTICES

Recommendation 1.11 translated WASHED HANDS OF OBLIGATION TO DUTY OF CARE ...not our fault, everyone else failed but not us. But, maybe, we will look at **ex gratia or grace** payments (translated could be interpreted as we don't believe you but we will cover our back).

The Federal Government has an Obligation and Duty of Care to protect all Australian citizens. That is the mantra of Laws of Child Protection in relation to protecting children. If parents fail to protect their children in any form, Australian Laws deem them as unsatisfactory parents. Under the very same rules must all state governments and federal government be assessed!

The governments of the day **do not have a duty of care** to people who choose invade or wish to invade Australian shores. The Federal and State governments have and are still handing out more money to illegal immigrants who claim they are asylum seekers than to this country's children and children shipped out from England, all now adults, who were and still are abused by the laws of the land. They have allowed and continue to allow this abuse, by not believing or choosing to ignore the claims of abuse in orphanages; abuse by foster-carers or agencies working in tandem with the federal government and state governments. But, it is apparent government officials were and still are only too happy to believe anyone who accuses a parent of child abuse under our ambiguous laws (escape clauses for politicians and public servants).

In turn this lead and leads to negligence by consecutive state governments and the federal government, as the lack of **duty of care** and a **non thorough investigation** into all agencies is still prevalent. Taking a child from their family surrounds and placing them with complete strangers is abuse, and in Victoria, under the current Child Protection Act children are still being violated, abused and socially isolated from their family in some form or another. Children, now adults, have to prove they were abused before redress or compensation, the old agencies and orphanages re-inventing themselves with re-invented mission statements to gain more funding.

Committee recommendation 4: 2.95 should read: New South Wales and Victoria establish redress schemes for ALL children taken from their family and socially isolated from their family are abused people.

All states and Territories should do the same. Children removed or actively encouraged to leave their parents are still being abused under our current laws.

That is why in 2005 Victoria changed its Child Protection ACT to make it harder for the current children in care to sue for the abuse they are and have suffered.

The Federal Government continues to fund directly and indirectly to all of the supposed Child Protection organisations.

Chapter 1: BACKGROUND 1.3 should read 'Only reason for this current inquiry is although we have shut our eyes to the abuse of children by workers and paid carers are we guilty by association'. Answer: YES. Why all the justifiable funded inquiries into child abuse by the state and partly or wholly federally funded organisations? It is because all levels of government failed these children and still continues to fail the children. Answer: YES.

The Australian Federal Government, All State Governments and the British Government have allowed the abuse of children in since convict days. They have consecutively allowed the so-called charities and religious organisations to use children as an unlimited financial resource for the rich and powerful.

My reason for all of the above statements.

1929 My mother stolen from her mother at birth and placed in Bethany Babies Home, GEELONG. Reason: Mother unmarried. Under Victorian law no longer could unmarried mother be considered fit parent so child removed not just from mother but whole extended family. Reason: all charity and church run institutions had overheads, no babies, no money, or young children to foster out. (Ref: A Refuge at Kildare, by Shurlee Swain) My mother unfortunately had eye and bowel problem so no-one wanted her, eventually my maternal great grandmother became her foster mother, until she was legally adopted by her own mother and mother's husband at approx 15 years old. My mother was fortunate she had these problems as she grew up with all her extended family. Unfortunately my mother never realised this as she died in 1994, always believing her mother never wanted her.

1995 Asked Bethany for mum's records but apparently no records, so directed to Victorian government where I paid for her adoption papers but they apparently have no records about her time in Bethany. At present time Bethany is extremely large funded organisation that supposedly is there to *HELP*. But no abused children, or family problems, no funding.

2001 Received letter from Victorian Adoption Department asking me to contact them as they had some new information. 1932 a son was born to my grandmother, and would I like contact with him. He was taken from birth, placed with foster parents, who later in collaboration with Catholic Church and the State of Victoria and without his mother's consent was adopted. I believe this is an illegal adoption. He adoptive parents never told him he wasn't theirs.

Not only was my uncle deprived of his mother, deceased 1973, and his sister, but all the extended family that my mother grew up with. My siblings and I missed out on having an uncle.

The worst part is in Victoria this is still occurring and will continue as long as governments are allowed under our current laws to BE A 'PONTIUS PILOT' AND "WASH THEIR HANDS OF THEIR ABUSE OF CHILDREN".

Reason for this statement:

1996 Sort help from CLOCKWORK youth agency in Geelong because worried about our 16 years old child. By time they had finished with their HELP, our child running away, suicidal and very angry. According to then (...), Dr (...), (...), now (...), ""it was our fault, something was wrong at home, we were too strict" and had nothing to do with their counselling or Anger Management Course. Pity they didn't find out through all their 3 months twice weekly MEDICARE funded counselling, that our child was being beaten up and constantly bullied at school. End result of Clockwork counselling was our child used; abused and left our child ripe for the paedophiles. When these were stated in letter and that this organisation abused our child we were sent solicitors letters threatening if we, the parents, brought it out into the public arena we risked being sued. All these can be verified. This organisation is supposedly there for the child.

8 March 1998 our child left home officially and was under another Victorian and Federal funded organisation BYAS, (now Youth for Time, Geelong. These organizations are always reinventing themselves.) We the parents were assessed over phone by Homeless section of Centrelink as to whether we were abusing our child, apparently they thought we were as within 2 months my child endowment payments for my child were cancelled.

May 1998 went to agencies in Geelong to try locate our child we were told he was officially not going to be living with us anymore, and because when packing our child's clothes I found Homeless Austudy Form dated (...), (...), 1997 signed by BYAS worker. Over a 2 years period all agencies in Geelong (all networked) were very defensive and in the end accused us the parents of lying and having threatening behaviour. Also told us our child did not want any form of contact with us, that also was a lie. I have letters stating same. Centrelink twice cancelled homeless payments in 2 year period as our child was accused of defrauding the government. They had made the mistake.

2000 Child came home, no help from Centrelink to find job, no money unless child became homeless again. Until 25 years old no financial assistance to study or find work unless went homeless.

The welfare dependent agencies and governments on all levels left child in quagmire. 11 years later and now is healthy and happy but with many scars and 2 years of family life not shared with siblings.

Reason all of the above is relevant because the welfare dependent agency we went to for help to did their best to ruin child, defame us as parents, then the next agency at same time was baying for more public money to finance this welfare dependent agency supposedly supporting abused children. No different to past practice, parents leave child and abuse takes place no-one cares; parent abuses child, child then taken and hidden abuse occurs, then child left to flounder.

Agencies accused us of terrorising them and threatened us with solicitor's letters. When is questioning the morals of any organisation lack of obligation to a child considered terrorising. Today's agencies treat the children like the orphanages; children's home and foster-homes of the past with no real accountability to the child. They were and still are set-up to finance themselves first and foremost and use all Australian laws to not be accountable.

Conclusion

Federal government is responsible to us the citizens, they make laws that allow others to gain financially and hide abuse, so must pay for their lack of foresight. How many children are dead who were in care, because government's lack of accountability?

Recommendation

All past careleavers must be given card that allows compensation to be used at careleavers discretion. In Victoria you have to be assessed through a re-invented agency OPEN PLACE with one of the contributing agencies BERRY STREET being the most abusive to children in care in 1980's, 1990', 2000's (Inquiry into Inhaling Volatile Substances 2002). The money spent on Open Place, other agencies like it and workers should be spent on children who were taken from family, placed care and socially isolated from extended family. If governments can find money to spend on agencies that abuse children then start removing it from them and give back to the people the government allowed to be abused. If Australian government can find money for so-called asylum seekers who are actually law-breakers then unlimited money must be available to my uncle and all careleavers of Australia, who were forcibly removed and placed in care or whose parents placed their children into care in good faith that they would be better off.

Yours faithfully,

Lynette Margaret Hughes