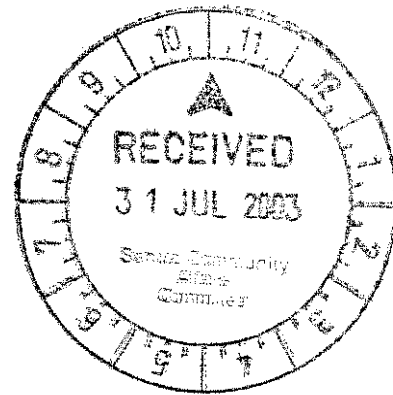


Kevin John Grills



1. My name is Kevin John Grills
2. My Address.
3. I was born on the 26th December 1961
3. I was the living third child of Kenneth John and Lorraine Grills
4. My oldest siblings being [redacted] and [redacted] Debra-Ann [redacted]
5. On the 28th of April 1967 I along with my other siblings were removed from the care of my parents and committed to state wardship as a result of being charged with neglect.

I was 6 years old at the time I was placed at Bidura with my sisters [redacted] and Debra-Ann. My brother [redacted] was placed at Rolleston Home Glebe.

21st November 1967 I was then put into foster care into the care of Mrs J Stribning who passed me back to the care of the NSW Child Welfare Department.

7th May 1968 I was placed into the care of Mrs J Callan of Belrose. I live with the Callan family for 11 during which time they attempted to adopt me. This however never took place.

It was during my early primary school days when I was told either by my foster parents or by an employee of the Department that my parents and siblings were dead, having been killed in a car accident.

I have since learned from my records that my mother and father and my brother [redacted] had written to me however I did not receive any of the letters nor were I told of their existence.

I knew that I had a brother and sisters but the concept of them was very vague as I had been separated from them at the time of my removal into foster care and subsequently had not heard or received any information on them or their whereabouts. From that time onwards

During the time I stayed with Mr and Mrs Callan my brother [redacted] unbeknown to me had made a number of attempts to contact me. I was not informed of this.

1971 From the information contained in my records my brother [redacted] wrote me though the Department. I never received the letter. I was 10 years old at the time.

4th June 1973 my records state that I was assessed for an IQ, (73-80) test and the principle and teacher agreed that I had a limited intellectual capacity.

21st March 1974 in a report from on the state wards it states that I was performing above the assessed IQ of 80 and I was progressing.

27th of the eighth 74 my record states that my foster parents were anxious to adopt me in 1976 my foster parents Mr and Mrs Callan decided that led not go ahead with the adoption because they considered that I had no strong attachment or bond with the family

16th February 1979. States Kevin Grills to Royleston following foster parent placement breakdown. At that point it states on my records that there was no contact with siblings or parents. Over the following few months my foster parents and on were involved in conference is to try to see if I could resume the foster care relationship with them.

I believe that my foster care experience was a positive one; I was taken well care of and was treated like their natural child. My placement broke down as a result of my need to establish my self as a young adult. Although my foster parents treated me well they constrained me by not allowing me the freedom of a normal teenager. As a young adult I wanted to have some sort of independence and subsequently I rebelled leading to the breakdown. At the present I still have a good relationship with them

20th April 1979 I was placed at the Chatswood Community Hostel. I have little memory of my time at this institution.

24th July 1979 I was admitted to Werrington Park. At Werrington I believe I may have been bullied by other the residents.

10th October 1979 I absconded from Werrington Park.

After my escape from Werrington Park. I turned to living on the streets I do not remember any particular place I'd drifted from place to place sleeping on train stations and anywhere where I could find a place to sleep for the night. During this time I remember I was very dishevelled state having nowhere to shower and having no clean clothes to wear. I went through garbage bins looking for food

I did not want to return to Warrington Park because I was scared that I would get into trouble for running away. I lived on the streets for the next 2 years.

Around 1982 I was taken in by a stranger who found me sleeping on a bench at Wynyard Station and I shared a unit with him for the following 20 years.

His name is [redacted] of [redacted] he can be subpoenaed for a affidavit re my story from that point .

After my "rescue" John took me back to his place to live. Eventually I got work. And during the following 20 or so years I have held down a number of jobs ranging from storeman, console operator, and security and sales assistant. I am now working at State transit at Willoughby Bus Depot as a bus cleaner; I have been there for nearly 2 years.

During the time I lived my foster parents and with John I suffered feelings of isolation, loss of identity, emptiness, loss, depression, suicidal. I attempted suicide approximately 6 months before the advertisement appeared in the Daily Telegraph looking for me. I was admitted to Manly Hospital. As a result of this suicide attempt I had a social worker counsel me for the first time. I told her that because of the depression and feelings of loneliness I had been feeling.

From that point I was counselled at Queenscliff Community Centre Manly I attended counselling this for approximately a couple of months.

From 1998/99 I started having heart problems which culminated in surgery in February 2000. I had an Aortic Valve procedure. I believe that this problem has culminated from the stress and trauma I have suffered from since my separation from my family

During all this time I had not undertaken a search of my family as I was deceived into believing that they were all deceased.

In December 2001. My friend John saw an advertisement in the Daily Telegraph with my name mentioned. The person, one, Lily Arthur who placed the advertisement also left the phone number by which to be contacted, by persons who had information about me.

My friend John unknown to me rang Lily Arthur and she informed him that it was my parents who were looking for me. He told me about the article and he then gave me her number to phone her about the advertisement. I was in a state of shock to see my name in the newspaper as it was only just a few months after a major heart operation.

I then phoned Lily Arthur who placed the advertisement and told her I thought that I was the Kevin John Grills that she was seeking. Ms Arthur then informed me that my mother and father were in fact the person who had asked her to try to find myself and my sister

On hearing that my mother and father was still alive and were looking for me I went into a deep state of shock. I was absolutely speechless not knowing what to say or what to think, having believed that for the past 30 odd years that my parents were in fact dead.

I was given a phone number by Lily Arthur to call my parents and then learned from her that in fact that my other brother and sister were also told that my parents were dead.

I was reunited with them a week later. This was an overwhelming emotional situation.

Leading up to this revelation of having a family, I had had a number of traumatic episodes where I had undergone severe bouts of depression, anxiety, loneliness, physical and mental health problems caused by feelings of not belonging and separation trauma. The stress of feeling the "aloneness" impacted on me and the

compounded feeling of anger, low self esteem and despair led to try to commit suicide on two occasions.

My first attempt to kill myself was before I had learned that my parents and siblings were still alive was brought about by major depression at my feeling alone, and unloved. I tried to kill myself by taking an overdose of Warfarin. I was admitted to Manly Hospital

My second suicide attempt was on reunion with my parents. I had been reunited with them for 12 months and the emotional reactions of the past 12 months drove me to attempt taking my life with another overdose of Warfarin. I was admitted to Westmead Hospital and was monitored for approximately 6 hours and had to attend the emergency department for the next 2 weeks.

For the past 16 months since I learned of the existence of my family I have been in a state of trauma, anxiety, anger and suffering from major stresses related to the knowledge that I have been lied to for the past 35 years.

As a former ward of the State. I believe the State has breached its fiduciary duty of care toward me by separating me from and denying me contact with my family.

Although the State may believe that it was in my best interest to separate me from my parents I do not believe that it was justified in the separation of myself from my siblings with whom I may have had a loving and secure relationship with.

Through it's negligence I have grown up believing that I was alone in the world. This breach of duty of care has resulted in long term major physical and psychological problems.

I have over the past months been reunited with my brother [redacted] and Sister [redacted] with whom I have had a positive outcome. I am still to find and resume my connection with my younger sister [redacted] who's whereabouts are still unknown.