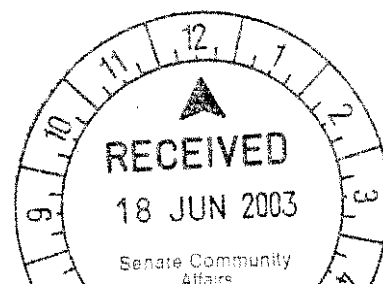# Submission to Senate Inquiry on Child Abuse

I am a 68-year-old pensioner and I seek the right to appear before the Senate Inquiry when it holds its meetings in Melbourne.

The reasons for seeking this right are as follows:

❶ In December 1936 when I was 19 months old I was forcibly removed from my parents and charged with being a neglected child. It was during the depression and my father was very poor.

❷ I was institutionalised at Royal Park Girls' Depot.

❸ In 1938 I was fostered inappropriately and later removed due to reports of abuse.

❹ I was again fostered -- again inappropriately and without adequate supervision (once a year reporting and possibly with little support to the foster parents).

❺ The Department initated my adoption at the age of 17 1/2 years and conspired together with my foster parents to ensure I did not know of the proceedings and did not appear. This adoption has since been discharged "as it contravened the act".

I seek leave to appear to make a complaint against the Government Department, Child Welfare Department now Human Services Adoption Information Service.

❶ Inappropriate placement -- the persons selected were inappropriate.

❷ Lack of supervision for wards. A visit once a year with a report of 2-3 lines shows a lack of duty of care.

❸ Lack of support for wards and foster parents.

❹ Initiation of adoption proceedings which denied me the right to be present and also denied my mother the right to be present.

❺ The effects of the adoption -- considered illegal by the writer -- was to deny my-self all the rights of a child to family and family history, medical history, culture, everything that is the right of an individual to possess.

Doctors from the psychiatric hospitals verify the negative effects of adoption -- I have searched all my life -- the act changed in 1985 and we were allowed to trace information the Department had -- and had refused to impart -- even though for nearly 18 years I was boarded out and therefore had every right of access to my family. This right was not granted.

I seek leave to appear.