

Subject: Is this a Senate Inquiry matter?
Date: Thu, 30 Oct 2003 11:06:08 +1100

I am writing mainly as I saw in the paper the Kathleen Folbigg case where she has killed her 4 babies and has now gone to prison, a total tragedy...but I could not help but see that she had been in 'care' and I quote from the SMHerald article on October 25-26, 2003 THE DIARIES OF A MOTHER INCAPABLE OF LOVE. A DOCS officers report records she had been [sexually?] misused by her father during infancy (who also murdered his wife/her mother). On her file she is described as being 'borderline retarded age' at age 1!(what a legacy to begin life with, an official diagnosis in her first year of life!).

Her history and time in care and foster care shows her left with no sense of being able to fully care for her babies, then concluding they would be better off without her, must surely be an indictment of her past, and of her time in care, along with the obvious trauma she received. She writes in her diaries 'her sense of family is so important to her', yet so completely absent in her life. What am I trying to say? She is an extreme? example of someone so struggling with who she is and where she came from she is 'enraged' and murderous. The bit I feel most angry about is not only that she suffered terribly psychologically, but how unsupportive was her 'support'? Her husband, as far as I am concerned, should be sharing the cell next to her for the next 40 years. I can't believe that he has played no part, and 'impossibly didn't realise what was going on'. His torments and jibes have contributed to her feelings of low self esteem, so why is he free from guilt and therefore free from blame? I am angry about this and venting mainly, but how common is this?

I am sending an edited version of this to the letters page of SMH. Its old news and probably won't get airplay, but I feel that I want to say something.