

Secretary Senate Community Affairs Reference Committee

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In 1963 I was resident at Berry St Babies Home, as I was single 16 and pregnant. There were 2 placements of single pregnant girls to see out their pregnancy. We had to work as kitchen maids in service to Mothercraft nurses who cared for the babies and young children also living at Berry St. We were constantly told what bad girls we were and the only option was to give our babies to adoption. If you love your baby you won't be selfish and wreck its life by keeping it. I turned 17 before my daughter was born at the Royal Women's Hospital. (Public Institution). My mother had taken me to the almshouse there and it was my Mother's wish that my child be adopted. She was the almshouse client I never was. I was just the person who was bad and caused all the trouble. When my daughter was born I kept her beside my bed and pretended when my mother came that she was kept in the nursery. After a few days I was told she had to remain in the nursery. I told my Mother I couldn't go home without her and she said well you can't come home. I was never offered any other alternative as the day drew for me to leave I was extremely distressed one of the sisters hugged me and said just go home and be a good girl. I was dragged screaming from the hospital having to leave my baby there. When I got back to Berry St the Matron said I hope you've learned your lesson. All this happened and I had signed nothing. My sister collected me from Berry St and I was sent back to sign. I was told I couldn't keep my baby and she would be kept in an orphanage if I didn't. Please accept this Submission
Lyn. Kinghorn.