

To: Department of the Senate,  
P.O. Box 6100  
Parliament House, Canberra, ACT 2600  
Australia.

From: Dallas John McDermott  
28<sup>th</sup> Mar 2011

RE: Commonwealth of Australia Inquiry into Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices.

As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia I had and still do have an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution, rule of law and the Common Law of this nation.

As an Australian citizen, the Commonwealth should have afforded us all protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threatened our right to life, liberty and justice from those who denied us all these rights, within and without, the borders of Australia.

We must live by the Australian Constitution, Rule of Law, and the Common Law of this country and Commonwealth politicians are elected to uphold Commonwealth Law meaning they will prevail over federal legislation, and by operation of section 109 of the Constitution, will override inconsistent state laws (whether past or future.)

I am a natural father who would like to register my interest in this Committee's inquiry and acknowledge that it is an important step in addressing the issues of forced adoptions in the 1950's to the 1970's.

As a direct consequence of being completely shut out of my child's adoption and welfare, I and my mother (the child's Grandmother) have suffered a lifetime of living grief. It was the South Australian governments policy to withhold all information. My mother and I searched endlessly for the whereabouts of my daughter and was thwarted at every attempt. My mother (the child's Grandmother) searched till her dying day often in tears – she had an inner feeling that the child was being mistreated. After 40 years I finally had contact with my lost daughter and it was true she was mistreated by her adoptive mother and abused by their son. There was corruption involved – the woman who adopted the child was deemed unfit but the person organizing everything at Macbrides confinement hospital managed to bypass regulations. It has left my daughter with mental and emotional scars that can never be healed. I am unable to write any more as it is to emotionally painful.

I believe the evidence into the Commonwealth Government's involvement in forced adoptions will change not only your understanding of this dark period of this countries history but will increase your determination for the truth to be recorded so that the past is never repeated.

Please accept my letter and signature as a submission by registering my name as a participant in this Inquiry.

I thank you for this opportunity and eagerly await our great Nation to hear and see the truth unfold. I would appreciate you adding my name and address to your mailing list that I can receive future correspondence and documents on the progress of this Inquiry.

Yours faithfully,  
Dallas John McDermott