

NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT'S ROLE TO ASSIST FAMILIES OF FORCED ADOPTIONS

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Project Charter

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This project is to look at part B of the senate inquiry into forced adoptions being.

b) the potential role of the Commonwealth in developing a national framework to assist states and territories to address the consequences for the mothers, their families and children who were subject to forced adoption policies

It is estimated that 300,000 babies have been taken from their mothers since the 1940's to create families.(see Attorneys General Dept -intercountry adoptions.. 2011

Intercountry Adoption

Australia recognises the importance of intercountry adoption to family creation and is a party to the Hague Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in respect of Intercountry Adoption.

Sadly in 2011, Australia sees adoption as a way of **creating families** and not as **“the best interest of the child.”**)

This adds up to 300,000 babies , 300,000 mothers, and over 1,000,000 family members including fathers, grandparents and siblings, this does not include other extended family members.

This project will bring together all stakeholders in the form of a summit to develop this framework, create and deliver programs and resolve current outstanding issues.

Recognising the many and complex issues that have arisen from the inquiry, and proposing a process rather than prescribing a specific set of outcomes

In advocating a national process such as a summit with the purpose of building unity between the affected parties and empowering them to identify solutions.

Unity should be seen as a starting point for addressing the issues, not a far-off objective. Without unity it will be very difficult to go forward as each group will continue advocating on its own issues rather than seeing the bigger picture.

Unity needs to be based on a set of shared principles such as justice, and human rights, and consultation where all parties have a voice.

PROJECT JUSTIFICATION

There was a brief but devastating time in history when a segment of society wanted to convince the rest of society- that a mother could “Give up”her baby and without any ill effects get on with life, and that a baby could be removed from its mother placed with a stranger and bond as if born to her. We now know this is totally incorrect and the damage done is devastating and life long.

Needs Case

This summit is to be created to look at all the issues around “forced adoptions” including past practices, current practices, and addressing the consequences of government policies.

Currently there is no avenue for redress, totally inadequate counseling, and difficulties in searching and finding separated families .And there is no acknowledgement of the need for these families to rekindle their shattered bonds.

This summit needs to be run by those affected.

The current mores of the times do not recognize the existence of these mothers, at best they were perceived as “Birth mothers”, women who birth a better person's child, or feeble minded. And currently as mentally deficient, emotionally incapable and overwhelmed by their circumstances and needs, rather than capable agents of change in their communities.

It is not enough to conceive of *programs* in terms of creating opportunities for those living in *unresolved trauma* to meet their basic needs. Rather, with the understanding that each individual has a contribution to make to the construction of a more just and peaceful social order, these processes must be arranged in a way that permits each to play his or her rightful role as a productive member of society. Within such a framework, programmes could be characterised as processes that provide for the material, social and spiritual needs of those *affected by forced adoptions* across generations and enable all peoples to contribute to the ongoing advancement of society.

Benefits

The benefits of this process is that the vast numbers of people seriously affected will be able to start to heal and hopefully become active members of society and not become a permanent

burden on our already overstretched welfare system

Business Objectives

The objectives for this summit are to bring together all groups and individuals wishing to address the consequences of forced adoptions.

- Develop a united voice
- Develop a framework that will result in action
- Provide ongoing advice and direction for state and federal govt.
- Develop a 5 year plan to address the issues raised in the inquiry
- Be the authority on all issues to do with mother child bonding.
- Monitor programs
- report back to federal govt on finding and actions
- provide a closing report at the end of the 5 year plan.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This summit will provide a voice for those affected by forced adoptions. It will provide a n opportunity for all groups involved to come together to discuss the issues and develop a united plan of action

An initial summit will be set up to flesh out the direction and substance to develop this 5 year plan.

Project Objectives and Success Criteria

Immediately

- develop a list of interested participants
- develop a list of issues
- develop a list of possible options for meeting
- contact interested parties inviting them to select options or add others

20 days

- summarise options and invite participants to comment further

30 days

- notify participants of decisions of meetings and issues.

60 days

- hold initial summit
- decide at summit format for next step.

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Requirements

This project must meet the following list of requirements in order to achieve success.

- The solutions must be based on truth , human rights and dignity.
- Solutions must look at other working models in similar situation
- the project must develop processes to achieve desired solutions

Constraints

The following constraints pertain to the this project:

Those affected by the govt policies should at all times be the protagonists.

- all initial programs need to be implemented immediately due to the age and ill health of so many of those affected.
- All programs need to be costed accurately as due to the enormity of this issue money will need to be constantly monitors for the best outcomes
- all programs need to be coordinated so wasting of resources and time is avoided so there is no doubling of effort.
- All programs need to be evaluated and improved where necessary

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Preliminary Scope Statement

The scope of this project will include the following specifically tailored to those affected by separation by adoption

- the design, testing, and delivery of specific training programs for certifying counselors,
- the design and implementation of types of programs,
- policy recommendations to resolve legal blockages,
- design and implement programs to resolve identity issues,
- removal of obstacle to reunions,
- justice,
- historical accuracy,
- exposing crimes committed,
- removing myths,
- public awareness campaigns,
- media watch,.

RISKS

- inability to reach consensus on issues
- inability to design and role out programs in a timely manor
- inability to control costs and provide value for money

PROJECT DELIVERABLES

The following deliverables must be met upon the successful completion of this project.

- Create a united voice
- create a priority list
- develop programs
- fully deploy programs
- provide a workable time line
- provide a feasible costing
- documentation of processes
- recommendation list for future projections
- final report at conclusion of project

SUMMARY MILESTONE SCHEDULE

The project Summary Milestone Schedule is presented below. As requirements are more clearly defined this schedule may be modified. Any changes will be communicated through project status meetings by the project manager.

Summary Milestone Schedule – List key project milestones relative to project start.	
Project Milestone	Target Date (mm/dd/yyyy)
• Project Start	17/05/2011
• summit	17/07/2011
• Recommendations from summit	17/08/2011
• Develop 5 year plan	17/09/2011
• ½ way monitor plan	17/03/2014
• Report on 5 year plan	17/09/2016
• Project Complete	17/10/2016

SUMMARY BUDGET

A budget needs to be developed. The initial cost of the project is going to be quite high. The benefits of developing this project is that in the long run those affected will be more in control of their own lives and less of a burden on the welfare system. Since the damage done by “forced adoptions” is generational and the true cost unestimateable. It is difficult to quantify the actual true savings.

PROJECT MANAGER

The PM whether a person or management team or committee needs to be from within those affected. Though it is high likely that expert consultation advice to be sort when required.

The PM will be appointed for the duration of the project and responsibility to manage all project tasks, scheduling, and communication regarding this project. A team of experts will be appointed to look after each area and report back to the PM. The PM is authorized to approve all budget expenditures up to, and including, the allocated budget amounts. Any additional funding must be requested through the Project Sponsor, The PM will provide regular updates to the Project Sponsor.

Summit ideas

step 1 initial proposal

invitation to comment on format of summit suggested option

5 day conference located in centralized area

live video link up for those unable to travel

ability for feed back from those on video link up

set agenda

first 3 days to include the following topics

topics to include

- legal redress
- justice
- human rights issues

identity issues

- counseling
- reentering work place
- reunions
- media watch
- apology
- public awareness campaign
- myth busting
- history
- mental health implications
- other
- day 4
- workshops and community forum
- day 5
- create project plan