

April 30<sup>th</sup> 2011

Senate Inquiry into "Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and practises"

I Leanne Maree Brennan (Fugar) am a citizen of the commonwealth of Australia resident of NSW . As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia I have an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution and the Common Law of this country Australia.

As an Australian Citizen, the commonwealth affords me protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threatens my right to life , liberty and justice from those who would deny me these rights, within and without, the borders of Australia.

I would like to start my submission to the senate enquiry into illegal and forced adoption by way of introducing myself.

I have come to know myself as Leanne Maree Brennan born in the Dubbo New South Wales on April 6, 1967.

I was initially taken into care because my mother dared to ask the child welfare department for help. "Temporary Help " The nature of this help was to provide temporary accommodation until such time as she found stable employment and accommodation to have her returned to me. Her words" Returned to Me" .

In relation to me being charged by dubbo childrens court with neglect. The Departments representative tells my mother this is procedure and the only way he can help her with this temporary placement (this is documented in court files) I have in my possession.

The department had on more than one occasion formed an opinion of my mother from a few very Brief meetings. In one document the child welfare officer write the words "Apparently not of good character" next to my mothers name. Yet the department has no evidence to back that up. In fact the welfare officer interviews several people who know my mother personally including a former employer and they substantiate that her character is fine and that she always tried to do the best for her child. In fact at one stage the owner of a property where my mother worked even told the department that she would consider letting my mother bring her baby to the property on a permanent basis. This was never followed up. Another suggestion of a relative to care for me was also put forward by another person, but again not followed up by the department.



Why didn't the Department Follow up ? I will tell you why, because they were in the business of removing children from their parent or parents. It was mentioned to my mother in the initial interviews that she consider surrendering me for adoption, my mother declines and makes clear that she intends this to be a temporary arrangement and intend to have me returned to her

### The Time line

1/ Initial Complaint made to Child welfare department by a person of interest. This occurred on the 30<sup>th</sup> of March 1967 "according to court report" This is fairly disturbing as I wasn't born until the 6<sup>th</sup> April 1967.

2. My mother approaches the department for temporary care.

3. I was charged with being a neglected child (of no fixed abode) before the court and made a ward of the state on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 1967

4. I was institutionalised at Myee babies home in forest road Arncliffe on the 11<sup>th</sup> November 1967.

5. I was placed with foster parents on the 10<sup>th</sup> of December 1967.

6. Foster parents immediately start applying pressure to adopt the child.

7. Child Welfare commenced looking for random individuals by mistake who have no relevance to the case, this was heir attempt to contact my mother.

Problem 1. Department of Child Welfare is looking for the wrong women. The details on my ward file clearly shows the child welfare department looking for a Mrs (...) whom they believed to be my mother. When in fact my mother was a Mrs (...) (...)

Problem 2. The department of Child Welfare have my date of birth listed on many of my documents as the 23<sup>rd</sup> January 1967 when my actual birth was April 6 1967.

3.

Problem 3. The department clearly feed up with the pressure from the foster parents to adopt the child, combined with their inability to locate my natural mother, despite looking for the wrong women most of the time. It is recorded in my file that the department suggests dispenses with the natural mother consent this is referenced on a report dated 15 October 1971.

Finally my mother is approached by the department in 1975 and she agrees to finally sign the adoption papers. I will quote for you what my natural mother told me when I first met her. She told me the Child welfare department told her and various members of her family who made representations to get me back that they "Had No Hope" and that I had been living with a wealthy family from Orange.

The only truth to that statement by child welfare was Orange was in fact the birth place of one of my foster parents.

#### LETS TALK ABOUT MY FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE PARENTS

In 1967 the only criteria to adopt or foster a child was to be married and be working. The people that fostered and later adopted me were able to fit that criteria. But that was where it stopped.

Did they treat me as an equal, to their own child "NO"

Did one of them have a untreated mental illness "YES"

Was one of my foster/adoptive parents abusing perscription pills and alcohol "YES"

Did they divorce 5 years after my adoption "Yes"

Did the adult parent I lived with as a teenager mentally abuse me "yes"

Was I plunged into poverty again living with a single mother Yes"

Was one of the adoptive parents unhappy with the gene pool from which I came Yes

Was I offered the opportunities in life they offered to their own child "No

Oh and before I forget did I ever know my foster/adoptive parent to sleep in the same room "NO

I guess this little orphan (of the living) couldn't save the marriage after all"

AND THIS WAS TO BE MY SECOND CHANCE FAMILY

The child welfare department of 1960s was so dam busy moving the gene pool of the empire from those without jobs and family support to those with jobs and family support  
" Even if it was Just smoke and Mirrors"

4.

The child welfare department showed no respect for an individuals personal details like her date of birth, parents names. Things that are important to our identity.

In my records the department went so far as to identify the wrong women as my mother. In January 2011 , I approached the women in her eightys living in Sydney whos name appears incorrectly on my file, she was shocked as were members of her family to see how the department spent time tracing her personal details and noting them on my file, even copies of letters addressed to this women were on my file. How could this happen you ask?

Well just like they can dispense with the consent of a natural mother in her absence, we the wards were at the mercy of a system that did not care.

Thanks to the Child Welfare department of the 1960s, I am today estranged from the my living adoptive parents “ who the department failed to screen correctly” a department too busy recording such material things like the fact that these potential adoptive parents has a large house and a motorboat, instead of trying to locate my mother and my correct date of birth.

My mother was a trusting women who felt she was betrayed by the system, she was shocked to find out from me that I hadn't had the life that was once described to her by the welfare officer who sought her final consent.

A footnote.

The search for my records have now been completed by me when I successfully sourced my file from state archives just last week. You will be please to know that I educated the Dubbo Court House about how to obtain historical records relating to child welfare from state archives. Prior to my phone call this month March 2011, the Dubbo court house just tell anyone calling that their records don't exist.

Just another way of proving in 2011 “NOBODY CARES”