

I Linda Ngata of [redacted] in the state of QLD am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia and a resident in Queensland.

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.

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

I am the biological mother of a baby boy born 5<sup>th</sup> August 1971, who I now know was taken from me illegally.

Most of my pregnancy was spent at [redacted] Sydney, an unmarried mothers home where we worked for our keep. During this time we were overseen by Deaconess's who's daily function was to tell us that we were useless, and continually put into our minds that we were too young to be mothers and our children would be better off in a home with two parents and a sizeable income. When my time came and I went into labour I was taken to [redacted] a [redacted] [redacted] to deliver. During labour I was laughed at and told what a slut I was by two midwives. My son was born shortly after and whilst being stitched up the baby was placed across the room with the two midwives moving from side to side to taunt me from seeing my baby. I asked to have my baby and was told "that was not possible" as I was classified as BFA "baby for adoption". I told them I was keeping my son as told "we will see". I was put in a ward with other girls and left alone.

A couple of hours later I went to the nursery to get my baby and was told I was not to have admittance to the nursery. After lunch I returned to the nursery and proceeded to walk straight to my baby, I was physicaly held back, the nursery door was locked and a social worker called. I was told not make any trouble, you have no right to be here and to return to my bed, I made several unsuccessful attempts to get into the nursery to be with my baby.

On the 5<sup>th</sup> day I was called into a back office to sign papers. When I refused to sign I was told that if I signed I would be able to see my son and hold him. After I signed that offer was taken off the table. I was then told that I was too young, there was no help and that I would be a bad mother and my baby would never forgive me. I was stood over and pressured into signing my son's life away. Once they had succeeded in getting me to sign the papers I was told to go away, forget, and to move on with my life..... an impossible task.

My consent was not voluntary and obtained by duress and fraud.

On the 14<sup>th</sup> day of August 1971 I rang to ask about taking my son home, only to be told that he had already been placed in the care of his adoptive parents and that I could do nothing about it. I then went to the hospital not believing this story as I had 30 days to decide, I was met by the consent taker a Mrs (...) and escorted off the premises. My son was given to his adoptive parents at 14 days old, he was meant to be in care for 30 days, my son was taken from me illegally.

My life was never to be the same again. People shunned me or chose not to talk about it. I lead my life in a disruptive manner for many years believing I was the worthless person that I had been told I was. Every time I saw a baby or child I would wonder.

I never entered into any serious relationships in case my past would become an open issue.

Some 15 years after my son was born I met a man who was also adopted. In all this time I had never told another person the secret I had been hiding in my heart. He pressured me into having children and I fought this for 5 years. Some 20 years after my first son was born I gave birth to a girl in December 1991. After another easy 1 hour labour I could not even look at my daughter for fear someone would take her away. The ward nurse came in, placed her in my arms saying 'mother this child', we have had 3 more children since and I feel that I do not have the bonding that other mothers feel. I still to this day feel unworthy of being a good mother as this was instilled in me twenty years before.

My husband pushed me to get help, I sought help through several avenues, one was a better parenting group the other was Missing Link Adoptions Ministry where I felt I had to more than just rely on God for answers. I then saw a show on TV re stolen white babies and the group Origins. I contacted them as was helped to sort out paperwork re the finding of my son.

I was to learn many things from that paperwork. My hospital records have been doctored with blanks where something was placed over the original document. My social work records will be hard to find as were never given any form of counselling.

Many things have happened in my 56 years but by far the taking of my son was responsible for the dysfunction in my adult life. I was given a life sentence by these people of religion and government for being an unmarried mother.

My son placed a veto on me in 1991. The social worker told me his adoptive parents had written the veto, also illegal, who knows whether he thinks I didn't want him or if he thinks I was just a slut, neither being true.

I hope mothers can get the recognition we deserve from this enquiry.

I was not warned of the permanency of adoption and the lifelong implications and emotional risks of dire future regret resulting from adoption. I was coerced into adoption my consent was obtained under duress. I was denied all legislative protections and denied any counselling both prior and post birth.

I was denied all the protection of the child welfare act and other legislation. My experience was in no way in accordance with the provisions of the legislation. I have attached copies of my medical records.



## Summary and chronology

My son was born on the 5<sup>th</sup> August 1971

I always planned to keep my son , adoption was not an option.

From my medical records i have this information to add to my submission:

POINT 1.

B.F.A. was marked on my sons labour ward report

POINT 2.

Noted on my medical records on a daily basis is : asking to see baby; wants to keep baby

POINT 3.

Baby given to adoptive parents 19<sup>th</sup> August not the 30 days as legally required.

POINT 4.

Baby was marked unnamed on birth certificate.. this was not true

POINT 5.

Pre typed adoption order with details filled in... was this an assumption that all girls were to adopt.

POINT 6.

My name was on memorandum of adoption given to adoptive parents.

POINT 7.

I was aged 16 at the time of my son's birth and was not afforded the protection of a guardian.

Consent was forced upon me on the 4<sup>th</sup> day, how can such a life changing decision be made with the physical and mental trauma involved after giving birth.

I was badgered to adopt, not told of the consequences of adoption, not given counselling before or after.

Memories come flooding back when I read my medical records, of being desperate to keep my son.

My medical record shows my son was unwell, was this separation anxiety from being kept away from his mother.