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24 th May 2011

Committee Secretary
Senate Standing Committees on Community Affairs

I am writing this letter in support of the Australian Women, who, as single Mothers, many years ago, had to give up their Babies', because Society thought of them as "the lowest of the low, scum," in other words. They were never told of any support there may have been for them, but were made to feel ashamed and were treated badly. Another "Stolen Generation", but this time , mainly white.

I myself, am a New Zealander, who had to give up a Son in the early 60s.

How do you think we all feel today, when we see the money and benefits thrown at single Mothers today. I have heard they think us older Mums' were horrible for giving their Babies away. Why don't you make a documentary about us Mums' and make these young Mums' watch it.

We were just a convenient way for childless couples to have a Family. Shame.Shame,Shame.

I have just seen a very small piece on this subject, on the 7 P.M. Report, on Channel 10 and a Social Historian said a high number of these young Mothers had committed suicide and some had also developed P.T.S.D. and depression. We think it's time for an apology for all these broken hearted Women. I lost my Son twice, as he was killed in a work related accident in New Zealand six years ago.

I will be sending a copy of this letter to the New Zealand Parliament as well

Yours faithfully

Raelene Trusler-Steer