

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

*Preamble to Submission*

*I am 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 deny me these rights, within and  
without, the borders of Australia*

*My Submission*

When I was pregnant at the age of 16yrs in 1967, my Mother took me to the Almoner at the Royal Hospital for Women, Paddington, NSW. Things were then taken out of my hands and I did what I was told. I was sent to the Hospital 3 months prior to giving birth staying in the unmarried mothers ward in the basement of the Hospital for that period of time, there were other pregnant unmarried girls staying there also. When I went into labor I was taken upstairs, given sedation, I did not give permission for this, when I asked what it was I was told "opium and orange juice" I remained sedated the whole time, until the point of delivery, after giving birth I was left in that room for I don't know how long. A nurse came in, told me I had had a girl, her birth weight and length, she was the first June baby (just after midnight on the ) of 1968, born in the Hospital. I was later taken to a 4 bed ward, where mothers were feeding and caring for their babies. This was heartbreaking I think I cried the whole time I was in the Hospital. I was given tablets to dry up my milk; I don't know what this medication was called. I was left some papers to read & sign, no one sat with me to explain or guide me through this process, I was told nothing about options or consequences of signing this document; I thought I was not allowed to leave the Hospital until the papers were signed. I was allowed to sign a legal document yet was underage. I was told no need to put the fathers name, because, I could tell them it was anybody, yet I had been in a relationship for over a year with my baby's father, at no time was he included in any part of the process. Being so young I was influenced by "The System", coerced into doing whatever I was told to do.

The day I was to leave the Hospital, my Mother and the baby's father were there to pick my up, they were not allowed to see the baby, only I was allowed to see my baby, I was taken to a ward, was shown a baby in a crib, I was not able to touch her, there was nothing displayed on the crib to say who the baby was, the visit was short but my memory of that moment is very clear, I can still picture my baby's little face to this day.

I was not given any information about "financial provisions, foster care, state child minding facilities, and information about applying through the courts for maintenance from the child's father that were available under the Child Welfare Act to enable unmarried and unsupported mothers to keep their babies" this is the first time I have heard of these provisions. I did not personally ask to give my baby up for adoption, of course I was unsure of what to do, I was not aware of the long term effect, I was not offered more time, I was not given enough information or assistance in ways to improve my situation or what the long term permanent implications would be. No offer of counseling or guidance post adoption.

I feel I had no rights, "I was young therefore I was to give up my baby for adoption, to give to a couple who will be better able to provide for the child."

I was denied the opportunity of raising my daughter, I had contact with her when she was 21yrs old, she had a family and our relationship lasted for some years, but has since broken down and I no longer have contact with her or her family.

I feel I am owed an apology for being treated so badly by the Government, and for having to suffer all these years when I could have been treated better, I am an Australian Citizen and a Human Being, but was not treated as such, I feel that I am owed an apology as did the "Forgotten Children" & "The Stolen Generation" so far as the past Government's involvement in the poor treatment of Australian Children.

Thank you for this opportunity to have my say, Please do not reveal my name and address details for privacy reasons