

Mrs Rosemary Neil
(...)



Re Senate Inquiry into
Commonwealth contribution to former forced adoption policies and
practices.

Dear Committee,

I Rosemary J Neil nee Hales am a citizen of the Commonwealth of
Australia resident in Victoria.

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 believe I was coerced into the Adoption of my first baby, from the time
my parents found out I was pregnant, a single Mother was not accepted in
society in 1966 also I was an illegitimate baby my mother insisted that I
should not put my baby through all the hate that I had to live with as a
child and I wasn't to come home if I kept my baby. My parents were
really my Aunt and Uncle.

I was sent to Melbourne to live with my Uncle, until I went to the
Presbyterian Sisterhood (...) Nth Fitzroy. Where we were
denied any contact with the outside world, the only contact we had with
our family was by letter, our letters arrived with pages missing and some
words blacked out, our letters had been censored, when I asked why? I
was told the (...) didn't know anything about the letters. I cleaned the
(...) 's office as one of my duties and often saw letters burning in the
open fire, when I asked why I was told " they were old and not needed any
more", we were there to deliver healthy babies for Adoption.

We were also given false names mine was "Sue".

I was taken to the Royal Women's Hospital for the delivery of my baby,
some of the staff were caring, I was internally examined by 4 student Drs
at one time this frightened me and I felt very alone. There were women
screaming all around me, I was terrified, I was from a small country town
not used to so many people. We were given exercises at the Sisterhood but

don't remember being given any info about Birthing. One of the staff ignored me when I asked for some water, I felt I was a bad person and didn't deserve any consideration. At about 4am I was very distressed and needed someone to be with me, I asked the staff if they could ring my Auntie but I was told the only person the staff could ring was the (...) at the Sisterhood, so I was given Heroin I didn't know what it was at the time, I was also given other painkillers and I took them all because I didn't want my baby to be born because my baby would be taken from me at birth. Even though I protested and I couldn't see when she was born, [I believe because of the amount of pain killers I had taken], I wasn't able to push and she was delivered by forceps.

I woke up in a Ward full of mothers feeding their Babies, this was very cruel.

I stood at the nursery window with tears running down my face, I asked to hold or feed my beautiful baby and was told that because my baby was to be Adopted I couldn't do either, the nurse brought her to the window but I was crying and couldn't see her properly.

I was given an injection to stop Lactation, I believe this affected my ability to breast feed my next daughter, who has also had Ovarian Cancer and had her Left Ovary removed. Was this injection DES?

When I was leaving the Royal Women's on an Ambulance trolley, a lady said she would like to talk to me, but I was very upset and in shock at having to leave my baby, I said I was going back to the Sisterhood, she said "already", then I was taken back to the Sisterhood.

After my return to the Sisterhood without my baby girl I was cared for in their "hospice" I don't remember how long, until it was time to sign the adoption papers, I was given a tablet "so it will be easier". After being told that the money available from the Government wasn't enough to support my baby and myself, that if I really loved my baby I would sign the papers so she would have two parents to love her [she already had two parents] asking if I could ring my parents, I was told I wouldn't ring them and cause them any more heartache, I eventually signed the adoption papers.

On the 29th day after (...) was born I took my papers back to the Women's Hospital to take my baby home, I was laughed at and told she wasn't here she had gone to her Adopted family and if I wanted I should go to the Court House, when I asked where it was I was told to look it up in the phone book, feeling absolutely defeated and hopeless I left all the baby things I had prepared and walked out. I don't remember much about the next two years I did some very hurtful things to my parents and other people. I married in 1969 and had four beautiful children, before I realised I couldn't replace my missing daughter.

I met (...) just before her 22nd Birthday, we have a great relationship but there is always a difference because of her upbringing, we can't change the years we weren't together.

I have my Medical Records, and info from the Sisterhood.

One of our Grandson's is Adopted, through the Open Adoption system.

Adoption separates fathers, mothers and children for LIFE. We live our lives a LIE because we can not be the people we were born to be, we have to live with out our own names and identity.

Yours Sincerely

Rosemary Neil

(...)