

Department of Senate
PO BOX 6100
Parliament House
CANBERRA ACT 2600



***“Senate Community Affairs inquiry into Federal Government
Contribution to forced adoption practices and policies.”***

I John Charles Hughes am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia in the state of Western Australia. As a citizen I have an inalienable right of protection under the Australian Constitution and Common Law of this country

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

In writing to you on these issues I feel very strongly that the above was never applied to persons in similar positions and would like the wrongs to be righted

In March of 1963 my girlfriend (...) became pregnant to me when her age then was 16 and my age was 20. When (...) mustered the courage to tell her parents in June of 1963 her father who was a serving officer of the Victorian Police Force called me and told me to meet him at Russell Street Police Headquarters where I was intimidated, threatened with Jail and was verbally abused and warned that if I was to see (...) again it would be at my own peril and possibly face any criminal charges they would choose to lay.

Knowing (...) would have been subject to similar treatment it seemed best for her in particular if I did as I was told whereby hopefully taking some pressure off her and easing her stress and intimidation as much as possible.

On reflection I really do believe to this day that (...) was in this world to be a mother and an excellent mother at that so I cannot imagine how distressful for her the treatments would be mentally and physically so I thought it best to keep my mouth shut and grin and bear it for her sake, I was not aware of what happened after that within her family but only prayed she would pull through as best she could

(...) did call me on the 24th December 1963 after the birth of our daughter and she was so elated but I also felt the panic and fright in her voice as to what was going to happen from here on in, I was going to visit her but was again warned never to go near her again by her father and a male friend who threatened assault and more should I see her, so naturally I kept my distance so as not to cause any more trouble than I had already brought to (...)

I was never at any time asked what I would like to do in regards to marriage or parenthood so with no options in any way nothing more happened, never given any documents to sign or authorize any actions which I thought was strange as I was the girls father but felt very disappointed that maybe she would never know that

This predicament caused me great stress and anxiety in future years and I went through a bad time with alcohol abuse and generally did not take care of myself as I now regret I should but im sure this would be nothing compared to what (...) went through in her pain and anguish with a situation that was in no way her fault but only she and my daughter were put through these issues and pain.

It's all very wrong and im doing this in the hope that others will never have to be put through this pain and distress in any way whatever

Regards

(...)

John Hughes

(...)