I'm currently struggling in a tumultuous marriage to an amazing man who has been battling internal demons his whole life. He seems to have been set on "self-destruct" since he was a very young child. Being determined not to be dismissed as yet another significant other by whom he's been abandoned, I began researching to see whether B's history of crises may be the result of any particular life experience. Upon discovering articles describing Adopted Child Syndrome I was stunned. B could be the poster-child for ACS. Finally, at the *chronological* age of 42, B has agreed to try psychotherapy to try to ease the torment he has been suffering. (He's had one session. Will he pursue the treatment and will it help? Who knows?) Maybe, just maybe, he'll begin to understand that his self-belief that he was simply born "bad" and "stupid" is not a given. Please understand, this submission is NOT an attempt to excuse B's destructive behaviours or passing the blame onto relinquishing parents, adoptive parents or even those administering adoption processes.

My hope is that this Senate Enquiry will acknowledge that often inherent, sub-conscious and "primal" scars may come into play if not openly acknowledged and addressed by prospective adoptive parents, our Education System, the Juvenile Justice System and the Criminal Justice System.

Are today's adoptive families and their networks better equipped to recognise early warning signs of ACS than they were in the past? Can we prevent any more children from feeling destined to suffer an existence of exclusion, wrecked relationships (school, work, friends, family, life-partners) a deep-set anger at everything/everyone/no-one/nothing and all for no obvious reason? Is there any help available for adoptees in crises? There is assistance available to address seemingly disparate issues individually (ie psychotherapy/counselling/pharmacotherapy for : anger management, relationship difficulties, alcohol and other drug abuse, depression, ADD, Oppositional Defiance Disorder, Dissociative Disorder, PTSD, chronic unemployment, suicidal tendencies, learning difficulties, criminal behaviours, etc.)

But, where is there help with a more holistic approach that directly addresses Adopted Child Syndrome rather than each symptom in isolation?

This Enquiry, at the very least, should serve to expose the "elephant in the adoption room" (ie the impact of the process on adoptees, relinquishing parents and the ramifications for the wider community). The Enquiry will inevitably point blame at those administering adoption processes at the time, and (at the risk of opening the litigious floodgates) may even be followed by an apology!

However, and this may sound very familiar to those affected by Australia's indigenous Stolen Generations, will this Enquiry succeed in providing concrete assistance for today's suffering adoptees, their relinquishing mothers and also ensure future generations are protected from this insidious and destructive social cancer?