

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

I, Julie Noble am a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia resident in New South Wales.

As a citizen 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

Personal Story:

My son was born in August 1975 at St Margaret’s Catholic Hospital Sydney. He was stolen from me by the Adoption Industry. I had committed no crime, I was 18 years old.

I had no intention of giving him up for adoption, I had purchased his crib, bedding and basic baby needs, but ended up suffering from toxemia and was put into hospital early and kept sedated – from the moment I arrived I was referred to as “BFA” which I now know means “Baby for Adoption”.

I only caught a glimpse of him when he was born and was told that I could not see him until I signed the papers – I was desperate to hold him. I went to the nursery but was barred and sent back to the ward by the sister who told me I could not see him until I had signed – “signed what?”

I was kept heavily sedated after the birth– I was told this was because my blood pressure was still high. A very officious woman came and saw me – she said I had to have him adopted as I had no money and was not entitled to any as my sickness benefit would be cancelled after I left hospital and that if I loved him I would give him to a nice family. She said the Welfare people would take him if I didn’t sign anyway. All this happened while my mind was in a fog and I was incredibly drowsy.

I can’t actually remember signing but I do remember going into a small office with two women. After this I did get to see him for about ten minutes on two occasions and then I was discharged with empty arms, a gut wrenching emptiness and a lifelong sense of worthlessness.

Commonwealth Issues:

- Legality of Consent - Adoption consent being taken while mothers were sedated.
- Department of Social Security's role in allowing sickness benefits to be paid to third parties i.e. Church homes for unwed mothers
- To what extent did the Department of Social Security publicise benefits for single mothers. Did they notify or require Social Workers and Welfare Agencies and Hospitals to give this information to their clients.
- Were there penalties for these agencies if they gave out misleading or false information on government benefits services and entitlements
- Did Department of Social Security have an audit program to assess reach and probity around information on benefits.
- To what extent did any Commonwealth Agencies provide funding to Welfare Agencies involved in the Adoption trade, thereby tacitly supporting these practices.

Actions:

- I want an apology with the same reach, significance and national importance as given to the "Stolen Generation"
- Apology to recognise that forced adoptions took place to meet the needs of infertile couples.
- Apology to state that forced adoptions were illegal.
- Apology to be published in all major newspapers so that it reaches as many adopted children as possible so that they might realise that they were loved by their natural mothers and that they were victims of a crime against humanity and that their human rights were abused by the system.
- Provision of free specialised counselling services to those effected by forced adoptions.
- Government funded reunion program
- Negotiations with the States to enable Birth Certificates to state the birth parents and eliminate the fiction that the adoptive parents were the natural parents.