To: The Senate Community Affairs Committee.
Please find below my submission to the Community Affairs reference committee in relation to the Inquiry into the Commonwealths contribution to former forced adoption practices of the past.
Dear Honorable members of the Senate Community Affairs Committee.

I a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia and resident in the state of New South Wales.
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 the protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threaten my right to life, liberty and justice from those who would deny me those rights within or without the borders of Australia.

I come before you ladies and gentleman as an Adoptee and a Mother who has had to surrender her own child under circumstances that have not only severely disabled my very own being but also that of my own surrendered child.
I was born to an unwed Mother who was coerced into giving me away for adoption. At the time of my birth my mother was not allowed to see me and her face was covered with a pillow. I was taken from her never being held or nurtured by her and as a result the very first emotions that I felt was that of abandonment and rejection which to this very day rules my way of thinking and feeling.
I was given to a couple who were extremely harsh in my upbringing being not only physically abusing me starting from a very young age and also left in the presence of a family friend who sexually abused me from the ages of 2yrs-8yrs every Wednesday evening on a weekly basis. After disclosing this to my Adopted parents they still had this person involved in their lives which to me only proved that they were also part of this abuse.
During my life as their adopted child I was bashed, hit with objects such as buckle end of leather belt and rolled up newspapers. I was made from a very early age to do their household duties such as standing on a chair that they had made so that I could reach the kitchen sink to wash and dry the dishes from each meal 3 times a day. I was forced under physical threat to clean the families shoes and was belted if they weren't clean and polished enough that one could see ones reflection in them. This also began from a very early age.
At the age of 4yrs I was forced to enroll in private music lessons where I was beaten if I did not practice each day for 1hr including the years that I was locked away in a room with no ventilation and no means of cooling during the hot summer months.
On a regular basis I was fed food that obviously made me quite ill, vomiting each time after the said food and being woken up choking on my own vomit only to be dragged from the bed and had my head shoved inside the toilet so as not to spoil the bedding/sheets. This practice went on for a number of years. I was not allowed to leave the table until every piece of food had been eaten even with the knowledge that I later that evening become violently ill. No medical investigation was undertaken by my adopted parents as to what the cause behind this was. Later on I was to find it was a severe allergic reaction.

When visited by the family and friends of my adopted parents' family I was to behave and sit quietly and not say anything. If I happened to behave as normal children do after the family members were driven home I was then made to remove my underpants and I was put across the knee of the adopted Mother and belted with a rolled up newspaper that was taped together with brown masking tape. This was on some occasions used until it was frayed at both ends.
At no time during my childhood was it ever mentioned by either my adopted parents or their family that I was an Adoptee.
The abuse continued in such a way that when I became a teenager I started running away from events that they had taken me too and putting myself in mortal danger. I did not wish to return to their home and on several occasions was threatened to be put into Dulwich Hill Girls Home if I did not return and behave.
At the age of 16yrs I started seeing boys behind my parents back and having not been taught about female reproduction I found myself with child. On finding out this my Father once again forced me on the loungeroom floor and belted me till I was black and blue. I was sent to Carramar unmarried mothers hostel in 1978 where I was to surrender my baby for adoption and then return back to the adopted parents home to continue with my studies which I did not. I had no wish to surrender my infant son and so I saved and tried my best to support both him and myself without any outside support financially or any other means.
When my infant son was approx 4-5mths of age I was informed by a neighbor that lived 3 doors away from my adopted parents that I was actually an Adoptee to which I lost it! After facing adopted Father with this he admitted that I was adopted by them and that the reason being was my Mother didn't want me and had no rights to me once she had signed the papers. My True Mother was coerced into signing papers and under no circumstances would she have done so if she knew what monsters I was being given too to raise.
My adoption was not in the best interests of the child. This was the reasoning that was given to my Mother at the time of her coercion into signing the adoption papers. I was not given to people who had my best interests at heart.
My upbringing and my knowledge of finding out about my adoption and the lies that was told and the truth that was kept away from me had such an horrific affect on me I was no longer able to provide for my infant son. I had no money left to feed him or clothe him and I was in no way supported by anyone. This led to my rights as his Mother being taken away from me.
To say that I was a changed person is nothing but an understatement. Due to my abuse that continued thru my adult life I am now unable to leave my home unaccompanied. I entered a world of drug and alcohol abuse so as to self-medicate from the horrific truth that I had to live with on a minute to minute basis. I have been clean now for 13yrs. I have been in and out of counseling, Psychologists for the past 32yrs and am still unable to function on a basis that is normal enough to be able to mix with society. I am unable to shop, clean my house, cook answer the phone or communicate with most everyday people. It is because of my past treatment as a human being that I have been placed now on Disability Pension and left to once more try and fend for myself. I have been unable to find any sort of mediation or counseling that can be provided for me to learn how to function with some normality therefore Ive been placed in to the 'too hard basket'.
I am beseeching and asking that you please read and place yourself in my shoes for just

one moment and ask yourself was this adoption done ‘in the best interests of the child’.
I write this in honor of my True Mother (...) . The only person that ever loved me and yet was not allowed to be near me or even see me.
Thankyou kindly
Yours Sincerely
(...)