Dear inquiry into past adoption practices

I am concerned about the misuse of language. How can your enquiry be fair if it already endorses the term "forced" before it has even had the inquiry? Women may have been pressured to give up children and felt that in a society where single mothers were not supported they had little "choice" but they did have a choice and they were not forced. If this is not true then it is a criminal issue.

I am concerned that this language leads to the vilification of adoptive parents and infertile couples as child theives because that is the line being argued by the pushers of the "white stolen generation."

I would remind senators that their role is to uncover the truth and while it may be tempting to express sympathy and empathy to women who gave up their children by using such terms as "forced" this language fosters an atmosphere of hostility, creates its own victims, and is simply untrue.

I am sure that some unsavoury and illegal practices did take place. I would ask the inquiry to talk of these without verbal ornamentation and without tarring all adoptions of the period with the same brush, perpetuating the myth that no mother would ever willingly give up her child. For example if a young woman was told she could not see her child prior to signing adoption papers this speaks for itself without the need to cast it as :"kidnap." We all know that the mothers still signed the adoption papers, could have pulled out of the adoption, and it was believed at the time to be cruel to let the mothers bond with a child they had already agreed they were relinquishing. In other words it is the senates job to take the emotion out of this issue.

(Due to the intemperate hatred of some of the relinquishing mothers represented by such groups as I wish to remain anonymous)