Adoption Inquiry Submission

I was adopted in 1969 to Mr and Mrs (...) At that time single mother's were not allowed a pension.
My natural mother (...) wanted to keep me but her family wouldn't let her move back home.
During my early infancy I was in the care of a foster Mother (...) .
She disapproved of the (...) , Stating they were "old and proud'
On introduction I became very distressed, it would seem I was right.
My belief is that they should have given people choices, they should have given me choices!. Why didn't they - it must have been the numbers
I lived with the (...) family in (...) Melbourne but in the paper for the students my father's alcoholism was reported.
However the placement continued.
My adoptive mother claimed to have 12,000 pounds invested in the UK. They didn't own their own home. I believe she grossly exaggerated her investments as she once described once having only 4.000 pounds in B shares in her father's butchers shop in Glasgow and that she couldn't touch it. She stated this was because her brother had received 4.000 pounds to start his own business.

The rules for adoption were amended in 1968 to

improve the adoptions, and the department of welfare had to investigate the affidavits and tell the court what they had discovered.
In my Adoption I believe they didn't tell the court the truth as I getting older and difficult to place after finding out this gross exaggeration.

This negligence was covered up by Human Services in 1990 in Melbourne when I requested my file. I also requested in a letter, the rules, in 1998 and again in 2002 even though I knew they existed as they were in the State Library. I received no rules and there was a delay of 11 weeks before I got the rules after telling the minister I had requested them and I was disappointed in the response.

I asked for a confidential settlement as it might have given the Dept of Human Services bad publicity in the press and was offered house and land package by (...) the manager that was later rejected by the Legal Unit.

After the first initial years of my life in 1975 my adopted family moved back to their own country of Scotland. They were not Australian citizens and so couldn't return. I had a horrible time there. It was cold and grim. My parents split up and divorces and then we moved to Edinburgh from Glasgow.
My mother bought a B and B and began nightly drinking. She drank and became violent screaming

and assaultative. I complained to two teachers at school. The school asked my adoptive Mother about it but she convinced them she didn't drink and denied being violent, they believed her and suggested we go to a psychiatric institution for young people called YPU. At the YPU my mother managed to have me committed as an inpatient. I wasn't believed, and had taken a couple of overdoses of Paracetamols.

In the YPU I was uncomfortable and treated aggressively by staff. My Mother was able to have me in there for 9 months. And when I was discharged a nurse (...) . said "I wouldn't drag you out of the gutter". In the YPU I had met a girl called (...) who I sensed was a threat but in the coming years we kept in touch. (...) according to her mother was "a little bitch".
All through my early years my father had forced me to be an artist. He truly believed that was all I could do. I continued on a 3-year Art and design course but it was difficult and arduous and the course was awful. I built up a portfolio, which was accepted at Glasgow school of art as an exceptional admission. At 20 I began this Degree level course in Glasgow.

I had been living independently since I was 17 as my mother had sold the B&B and wouldn't let my live with her in her small flat. I went to a homeless shelter. Dad had a very run down small rented flat and he had once sexually abused me, as he was

homosexual. So I couldn’t really stay with him, not that he would have let me.
His belief was that suffering builds character and that people become magnificent if they have a lot of pain and suffering in their lives.
I suffered poverty in Scotland, it's a bit of a poverty trap.
I continued on my course in Glasgow until one day (...) came through for a night. And in the morning I felt like I had been hit by a truck and had what felt like an overdose of negative energy.
Desperately I decided to fly back to Australia with my grant money. I was given my Mother's maiden name of (...) by Human Services and was able to track down my biological parents. But after a few years they both decided they didn't want to know me. I also worked, as a cleaner in a major hospital in Melbourne in the emergency department were the overdose of negative energy put them off which caused them to harass and intimidate me for 3 years.
After leaving the hospital I flew back to Scotland. (...) my adoptive Sister had had a breakdown and lived with Mum in her tiny flat. (...) was their natural daughter which was difficult for me. Mum and (...) had really resented me because Dad had ignored (...) after I was adopted.
It was (...) who seemed changed, strange flitting eye movements, me and (...) I thought. (...) went in and out of hospital. I returned to Australia after a year.

I now live alone in a bed-sit in central Victoria and I have a cat.
Due to my mental illness, psychosis, I am not in touch with reality any more, I have a case manager I was picked on a lot at first by mental health but now they seem to be OK. It was clear though that Mental Health don't like people who want to sue the department and they can be quite illegal.
Thank you for reading this submission,
Yours Sincerely
Jonathan Gourlay

(...)

RECOMMENDATION
What I learnt from this experience is that there is a system used to remove the threat of litigation. Vigorously with determination they want to have power over you!
I don't know why . . . maybe that's all it is.

It harms the people they do it to so what's the point?

The twist and turns are infuriating this hellish behaviours outcome is that it drives innocent people mad it goes round and round in their minds because they don't know why they are treated like this, they don't deserve it.
The profession believes that everybody will sue but with resentment I say it isn't true they can pay for it! A victim of negligence has to put themselves in their position to understand why they are so uncaring. I can't see why it's allowed and they're saying it's fair I thought how crazy that is, no wonder people with no personal power are the ones most harshly affected I put my head to one side with compassion for them. People don't care they don't but Doctors and Nurses should! In the UK it's the same they do it over there too.
When there’s any serious risk of publicity, they buy people.Buying peoples silence.

The Ombudsman's office they're in on it and the hospitals make it happen by saving a fortune. Suing for negligence it's difficult and in the laws not fair it’s by powerful people. We need to move up onto a fair system it's about caring for people. For adoptees that suffered in negligent placements - a new life! Would be a wonderful new way of dealing with the issues and be great start towards a positive caring government.