Personal Submission to Senate Inquiry re Forced Adoptions:
In my view it “takes a village to bring up a child” and in the same way,
it “takes a village to create an adoption”.
A supportive environment for a single parent would include:
Medicare to continue and be appropriately funded.
Legal Aid to continue and to be adequately funded.
Support for Womens Refuges to be continued and funded enough.
Adoption and reunion groups to be funded adequately.
Counselling groups to be funded adequately
Continuation of CentreLink support for single parents.
Continuation of the Supporting Parents Benefit from the father.
Continuation of funding for Health (Sex) Education in all schools.
Subsidised available contraceptives such as condoms and femidoms.
Subsidised free contraception InfoLine.
Public Housing’s waiting list needs to be addressed in a very proactive and positive way,
and not just as election promises.
These matters to be dealt with proactively, and not too many studies, before information
is acted upon.
With respect to those involved, single mothers need to be fully informed of their rights in
all these respects, and not in an ad hoc way, as a policy which is carried out.

In my view, adoption is still largely about peoples attitudes:
which can follow legislation, action and funding :
and not the other way round necessarily.

I speak as a Mum who was really quite uninformed of my rights
in the 1960’s, or the rights of the child I carried to term:
indeed if anything I was misinformed and rather misled.

That is my short list.

Thank you for your time.