CHILD ADVOCATE CLASS ACTION

(Australia)

Submission to the Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices.

Dear Senate Commttee,

Today I read part of the submission made by the Australian Association of Social Workers, wherein they submit that the new centrelink demands upon teenage mothers are incongrous to this inquiry. I agree.

There is a danger that those Centrelink policies will become yet another oppression to mothers and babies which will lead to further unnatural occurrences such as those contained in your inquiry. There is a danger that years in the future further inquiry similar to the current will need to be called. Additionally, Centrelink is not a department whose work is without mistakes. I know this is a fact. Therefore, I see this inquiry as a particpation in the past, the present, and the future.

I draw your attention to the written works of Sir Ken Robinson. The gentleman is a emeritus professor, and knighted for his clever work in the field of education. I have read his book titled 'The Element-How finding your passion changes everything', published by Penguin/Viking, and know he has recently wriiten another titled 'Out of our minds-learning to be creative", published by Capstone/Wiley. In the book I read, the author describes how school education does not work for every human, and that persons should not lose hope or feel worthless if they do not recieve good marks at school or if their teachers do not consider them bright nor average, etc., and that many very successful persons gained employment and producitivity by seeking their own choices and paths in study and training. The gentleman author is obviously a clever person whom over a lifetime has made great contributions to his country and to other countries. The reason I write of this to you is to point out that there are so many ways that mothers can be made to feel that they are not good enough to be mothers, which is an immoral practice, of course. The new Centrelink demands are unnecessary and the compulsory time frame repulsive.

It is my experience that young persons, and young adults in the present,are vulnerable, sometimes simply because they cannot access a good lawyer, and because they are easy to push around and also easy to discriminate against, and that this type of activity did occur in the past.

When I was a young adult I had a couple of friends whom said they had been adopted and could not find or had difficulty finding their true identity and parents and they experienced much sadness and bitterness, which occasionally made it difficult for them to be employed, and to be good citizens, and further.

Therefore, I wish the Senate well in this endeavor, and hope they can make as much use of it as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Ms Isabel Field

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