(...)

(...)

(...)

28/2/2011

The following is my submission to the Senate Inquiry.

Cause and Effect.

Hundreds of thousands of young Australian women were abused by a flawed Government policy - that you have not had a huge response from them for your Senate Inquiry is not a surprise when you look at the level of trauma suffered by these women and a life of lies they have been forced to live.

In the state of NSW in a ten year period over 36,000 women lost their children to this system. If you multiply this number extending it to a 40 year plus period across all states then the number is enormous. Subtract immigration numbers over the period and you will find 1 in 4 Australians came into direct contact with this policy as either mothers, children or adoptive parents.

We young unmarried mothers were made to feel inadequate and dirty by medical staff and social workers, frequently referred to as sluts harlets and some physically abused as well, and all this by the people who we expected to help us. After all in society that is supposed to their professions - as healers and the means of obtaining information of what government had available to us in the way of assistance.

In reality not only were we not given any assistance, we were not even told our legal rights.

There existed a market in society for our children - infertile married couples. The benefit to government to take our children and give them to these people was two fold.
1) They were old enough to vote and therefore government stood to better their chances of re-election.
2) They would pay for the raising of our children and the government would save lots of money y not paying us our entitlements. (Which the social workers made sure they never told us about.)

My case.

My son was born at Crown Street Hospital from Women in Sydney on 11/5/1967. I went into labour on Monday 8/11/1967. By Tuesday afternoon 9/5/1967 his head was engaged

and almost ready for delivery. Unfortunately Tuesday 9/11/1967 was the night of the Doctors and Nurses Annual Ball for the hospital and as I was the only women in the labour ward and the staff had tickets to the ball they consulted Prof (...) (as shown on my medical file) and asked if they could delay the birth of my son so that they could go to the ball. He asked where my family was and when told that I was only one of the sluts from downstairs, he gave his OK to push my baby back up the birth canal to delay his birth! I was left on IV pethidine until he was finally born at 8.13pm on Thursday 11/5/1967 - part of my punishment for being unmarried! This type of abuse was common and supposed to ensure we did not return pregnant again and still unmarried.

I suffered blood poisoning after the birth and was placed in a ward with married mothers who had recently given birth. Early the next morning the other mothers babies were bought to them for feeding. I asked for my son and after much delay was told he had been sent to the Childrens Hospital at Camperdown as he had a mass in his right side. This action was taken by Medical staff without consulting me - his mother - or obtaining my permission. On my medical file it shows that they left a message for the social worker who did not start work til 9am to say he had been moved, no mention of telling me, his mother and legal guardian who was about 20 feet away. I went ballistic.

The next 7 days were hell on earth. Isolated, harassed and drugged in an attempt to have me sign consents to have him removed from Crown Street to the childrens hospital and adoption and state ward documents. I was threatened with being halled into Waverly Magistrates Court for disturbing the peace. Asked if I intended to become a prostitute to support my sick child (after all that's all your qualified for), and told I would be required to pay for any surgery he needed if I intended to keep him,. I was told he had a 5% survival rate.

His medical file shown I went to see him at the childrens hospital of 19/11/1967.

The story goes on, he had his right kidney removed without my permission and spent 13 months in a nursing home before being fostered out - at cost to both Federal and State Governments - I was told he had died.

He turned up 41 years later with both my christian names spelt incorrectly on his birth certificate. So much for Duty of Care, or is it cover up?

The last time I heard his voice he left the following message on my phone at 10.35pm 15/1/2010.

"Yeah its me.
You need to know hat because of what you did when you were f……g 15 or 16 or whatever the F….k you were you have a son with mental disorders.
Well done you.
Let that be on your f…….g head as well.
I hope you rot in f……..k hell.
You bitch."

I have never married of given birth again! The trauma is still with me.

You cannot give us back our babies but you can help to give us back our grown children. We seek an apology in the vain hope it will help bring our children back to us. Perhaps by the government acknowledgment of the part they played will turn my son around and I may one day meet my grandchildren. You are the only hope I have left.

I trust the committee will access the testimony of the mother from the NSW and Tasmanian enquiries to educate yourselves on the level of damage and abuse and trauma of those women who probably will not come forward again as they see it as a futile exercise.

Fate of our children.

I hope also that the committee will acquaint themselves with reports such as that of Brother Alex McDonald who worked with homeless drug addicted men on the streets of Melbourne. Brother McDonalds report shows that of 47 men who committed suicide by drug overdose that 42 of these were adoptees.

Our children suffer a range of mental disorders as the feel unworthy as they cannot see that we cared or fought to keep them. To us we know this to be untrue but they cannot accept that we had no power to prevent them being removed from us.
Our children need to know that they were not unwanted by us.

There was little screening done of adoptive parents, apart from them being married. Many of our children went on to suffer abuse at the hands of their new parents and their new parents social/family circle.

My sons and my rightful place in society were very much altered by the actions of government employees 1967.

THE BOTTOM LINE;

WE WERE YOUNG UNMARRIED AUSTRALIAN NON INDIGINOUIS WOMEN WHO WERE ABANDONNED BY OUR FAMILIES AND BETRAYED BY OUR GOVERNMENT.