

24<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies.

Hello

I wish to make a submission to the Inquiry: Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices.

I was born at the Salvation Army Home in West Hobart on the . My mother was deaf and dumb and was told at my birth that I had died. My mother's sister told me this, the reason was that she was taken advantage of at an approximate age of 25, her parents did not want to help look after me so shortly after I was born they sent my mother in to an Institution, at New Norfolk where she resided for nearly fifty years, it was there that I found her during her latter years and my husband and I were able to do a lot for her, she had had no visitors in all that time and was a capable person, she was allowed to visit the township of New Norfolk and also helped with housework. She should never have been put there but in those days that is what they did with people who were slightly advantaged or had slight disabilities.

One day on one of my visits to her, she pretended she had a baby in her arms and was rocking, then she pointed to me and pointed to the sky. I knew what she was asking me and I shook my head and pointed back to me, she burst into tears and was sobbing and hugged and hugged me. It was a very emotional moment, she must have wondered all those years what really happened.

I was adopted into a most unloving family, I was never made to feel part of that family, received beltings with a belt and buckle which would draw blood to my bottom, I had many of these. I was never told they loved me, often threatened that I would be put in a 'Home' if I wasn't a good girl, obviously they must have known the background or they would never have said that.

When I was a teen I had no confidence, I felt worthless and unloved, then I met my husband and married him two days before my 21<sup>st</sup> birthday to which I wasn't even told 'happy birthday' from my parents. I have had 46 wonderful years of marriage, have three wonderful children, two of them with degrees and all three very successful. I am lucky, I finished up having something that belonged to me, a home, children and wonderful husband so it doesn't hurt so much anymore.

I now have all the documentation of proof of my birth, unfortunately have never been able to find out the name of my father. His name was never on any forms etc.

I just think how terrible it must have been for my mother to have had me taken away from her on the day I was born and how hard it was for me to have to find out my background.

Kind regards