Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced Adoption Policies and Practices

Dan Lancaster

My name is Dan Lancaster; I was born in April 1963 & was adopted out through the Bethesda Hospital Marrickville NSW.

I have suffered a life of being under the forced adoption policy under the state government of NSW.

I have managed to obtain some documents through the Salvation Army regarding my adoption.

- They answer some questions but are “incomplete”, with signatures missing.
- Record keeping was poor & appears to be at best dubious.
- I believe my natural mother was intimidated & forced to relinquish me.
- This was the culture of the day & I believe that both state & federal government condoned these practices & encouraged agencies
- Informed consent was never considered, the decisions were taken away from my young mother,(unmarried & 19yrs old)
- There are so many layers of bureaucracy, no one seems either to acknowledge their role or responsibility, I had become frustrated to the point of giving up.
- I ended up no better, going to more “suitable, married people”. My adopted mother died in 1977 & my adopted father was an alcoholic & abandoned me. Better off not being with my natural mother?
- If appropriate support, informed options & “secrecy” taken away outcomes would have been better for mother & child.

The role of the government in the future

- Admission on all levels regarding involvement.
- Transparency
- AN APOLOGY
- Compensation
- One central department

Yours sincerely
Dan Lancaster