(...)

13th March, 2011

Department of the Senate,
P.O. Box 6100
Parliament House,
Canberra, ACT 2600
Australia.

Dear Senators,

Re: Australian Senate Inquiry into Forced Adoptions

I wish to have my submission published on the internet, **without my name attached.**

As a citizen of the Commonwealth of Australia I had and still do have an inalienable right to protection under the Australian Constitution, rule of law and the Common Law of this nation.

As an Australian citizen, the Commonwealth should have afforded us all protection from the unlawful and harmful actions that threatened our right to life, liberty and justice from those who denied us all these rights, within and without, the borders of Australia.

We must live by the Australian Constitution, Rule of Law, and the Common Law of this country and Commonwealth politicians are elected to uphold Commonwealth Law meaning they will prevail over federal legislation, and by operation of section 109 of the Constitution, will override inconsistent state laws (whether past or future.)

I am a natural mother who would like to register my interest in this Committee's inquiry and acknowledge that it is an important step in addressing the issues of forced adoptions in the 1950's to the 1970's.

As a direct consequence of the inhumane treatment I have received, I have suffered a lifetime of living grief and pain and now present my personal story for presentation to the Inquiry.

I believe the evidence into the Commonwealth Government's involvement in forced

adoptions will change not only your understanding of this dark period of this country's history but will increase your determination for the truth to be recorded so that the past is never repeated.

I thank you for this opportunity and join my sisters in standing as one, as we eagerly await our great Nation to hear and see the truth unfold. I would appreciate you adding my name and address to your mailing list that I can receive future correspondence and documents on the progress of this Inquiry.

Thank you (...)

My son was stolen in 1964.

In 1964 – a minor was someone under the age of 21. – I was 18.

A Minor couldn't vote, couldn't drink in a hotel or buy alcohol, couldn't buy anything on hire purchase without an adult co-signing, and couldn't sign any legal documents.

SO HOW COME we unmarried mothers, being MINOR'S, could sign Legal adoption papers?

Why, when we were made to sign these papers, did we not have an Adult present to protect OUR rights.

My Story. My Thoughts. My Submission.

I was 18 and early in Jan 1964 I was training to be a Nurse at Royal Melbourne Hospital. I fainted in the Nurses Café in the Nurses Home. I was taken to the Nurses Ward at the hospital and was **examined** by one of Melbourne's leading Gynaecologist of the day and (...) , Dr (...) , (who just happened to be conducting sick call for the nurses that day). This Doctor told me that I had a LARGE ovarian cyst and it needed to be removed quickly. (This doctor went onto to become the spokesperson in the early days of IVF, every time television stations wanted an expert opinion there he was on my television screen.)

Approximately 10-14 days later I was operated on at the Royal Melbourne Hospital by Dr. (...) .

When I return to the ward after the operation, the doctor was called and he told me that I didn't have an Ovarian Cyst, but I was pregnant. This really came as a bombshell, as I had had my periods regularly every month. So after being examined by this wonderful Doctor, here I was recovering from an operation that I didn't need, and being told whilst I was still 'groggy' that I was pregnant. The doctor had rung my mother and she went into his rooms in (...) St. The Doctor told her that "he had made the biggest mistake of his life" and that I was pregnant. (Apparently me being a MINOR, she was entitled to my personal medical information).

I was sent home after approximately 7-10 days later. Before leaving, I had to see Matron, where I was kicked out of Nursing. So not only had I lost my way of earning a living but and as it turned out, my baby also.

I attended the Doctor's rooms once, after I was operated on. There he told me that my baby was due approximately early to mid June. He then went on to tell me that "I have a friend that is a Matron of a Hospital. I can arrange for you to go there and have your baby. Would you like that?" I have never forgotten his words. That was the only conversation I ever had with this Doctor regarding my baby. He then asked me to leave the room, and spoke to my Mother. I have no idea what was said then. But I can guess, my Mother wasn't the first grandmother to happily give away her first grandchild. They all were complicit, to keep face and to help the doctors etc get away with the theft of a generation.

At home during the next weeks I kept haemorrhaging, and was in bed for most of the time. I was also losing amniotic fluid as well, so you can imagine that I was very sick, very frightened and very scared.

During this time I was not allowed to see my boyfriend. He would have married me if he had been allowed. He even left me a ring, which I actually got (no help from my Parents though). I wasn't allowed to see anyone I was virtually kept a prisoner.

Approximately 6 weeks later, I went into labour, and my parents drove me to the Vaucluse Hospital in Moreland. (...) . Around 3 am I gave birth to my son on the (...) March 1964, he was premature and I was at about 28-30 weeks gestation. I only know he was a boy because I was haemorrhaging again and I nearly died and I heard the Doctor yell at the nurse get HIM out of here, saying "I have more to worry about here with her." [My son survived because this hospital actually had the most up to date equipment for premature babies. Apparently the Matron's sister had problems losing very premature babies, and the Matron had purposely bought the best equipment to stop/help with this problem.]

They left me in the labour ward for the next 3 days, (I think they used it as an ICU for me), whilst they gave me 5 pints of blood in transfusions. It took them a long time to separate the vein from the nerve as it had collapsed, and then to start the transfusion. The first pint went through in approx 20-30 minutes, to reopen up my veins again.

After 3 days they moved me into another room in the hospital. Don't ask me where, I have no idea. I was kept away from all other patients in the hospital.
They gave me drugs to take, and as I had been so sick I didn't even ask what they were, or what they were for. (I have been unable to get my papers from this Hospital, (...) so I have no idea what they gave me in the way of drugs.) Although I do know that I was given Stilboestrol to dry up my milk. One of the nurses threw me the phial of tablets and said to me "take these". So I actually had them by my bed and read the label. Stilboestrol is a carcinogenic drug!

I was not allowed to see my baby although I asked several times. I was told that he was premature and very tiny and he was in an incubator. As I had been so sick, I was not allowed out of bed. Every time it was feed time babies were brought around for the other mothers in the hospital, there was one particular nurse that would stand in the doorway with a baby in her arms and pretend to come into my room, then say "Oh I forgot, you are not allowed to see your baby are you" then walk off laughing. I hope she rots in hell, she was so cruel.

I couldn't work out why she was saying this, all I knew was that my baby was premature and in an incubator, so therefore he couldn't be brought to me.
NEVER EVER did I ever have any conversations with ANYONE, about my baby being adopted.

A few days later, a woman came into my room accompanied by a man. They did not introduce themselves. She had a clip board with papers on it, but the papers were covered with a blank piece of paper. She insisted that I sign the bottom of the sheet on the board, then a second one. Then she and the man walked out of the door, but just as the man got to the doorway, he turned around looked at me and said "We

won't have any trouble will we"

I didn't know what he was talking about, and the drugs that they had been given me had me in a fog. Today I know that these were adoption papers that I signed, and also my son's birth registration application form, and that he was a solicitor. I have a copy of these papers now, and it is amazing to find that the rest of the papers were filled in by this Solicitor, and that he had writing that made it look like my handwriting. This solicitor actually signed an affidavit claiming that he had read to me the papers and explained everything to me. He stated that "**he had delivered to me a true copy of the said Consent to Adoption Order**".

NO COPY WAS EVER GIVEN TO ME. WHY – because at the bottom of the consent form was the form of Revocation of Consent to Adoption Orders.
They made quite sure that we didn't get copies of these papers. Hence we didn't know, we could get our babies back nor did we know how to go about it. FUNNY THAT ISN'T IT.

The Solicitor also stated in his affidavit that I had informed him that my baby was **' illegitimate, and no order had been made against any person for maintenance of the said infant."** NO WAY DID I TELL HIM THIS. Knowing this would have meant that I would have learnt that I COULD get help to keep my baby.

I hope he too rots in hell, he blatantly lied to the court.
He did not read me anything.
He did not ask me one question. The only words he spoke were as he was leaving, and that was to threaten me.
No one ever told me that I had recourse to any help – and that it was from the government in the form of a 'pension' – yes, there was one available.
No one ever told me that I could have received maintenance from my son's father.
No one ever told me about 'Foster Care or Foster Homes'.
NO HELP WAS EVER MENTIONED AT ALL.
NO ONE TOLD ME WHAT I HAD SIGNED. They just stole my baby and ran.

[Let's face it – Most mothers wouldn't have needed much help, just enough to get us back on our feet, help with a place to live, a job, and some child care. We were all young, and the majority of us all married later on. So how long would this help have lasted – most probably only a few months to maybe a year or s?- it wasn't going to be forever!]

Although some parents of a young single pregnant girl, might have abandoned her or even been insisting she adopt out their grandchild, the people in the Institutions were supposed to be there to protect and care for the patient and their babies, even from such pressure, instead they got caught up in their own prejudices and forgot to abide by the Adoption Law and therefore THEY FAILED IN THEIR DUTY OF CARE.

They had another agenda - to remove our new born babies AT BIRTH.
A completely heartless, and unlawful practise.
(No adoption could be legally entered into until day 5 after the baby's birth.)

So how come they removed our babies from day one, BEFORE adoption papers could be legally signed? (How could they know, we were not going to be good mothers, before giving birth to our first child)? They did not even let us try!

That's the question you must ask yourself, AND there are far more questions of equal importance to consider once we get our heads around that one.
IN REALITY they took what was most precious to us - they broke us into pieces, pieces that will never heal. They did it to us in every way imaginable, BEFORE they took our baby's.

My son's birth certificate is in the name of "**Unnamed**", because I didn't know what I was signing, hence I didn't/couldn't name him. This was the one thing that caused my son the most anguish. Along with thinking he wasn't wanted, he was "**Unnamed**" and he kept bringing that up with me, I don't think he could believe that I didn't know what I was signing. (I have since had his original birth certificate amended and he now has the name I would have given him on the original birth certificate). But of course this didn't alter things for him.

LIES LIES LIES and CRIMES CRIMES CRIMES - that was what the adoption era was all about.

So I went home from hospital, in 6 weeks I had had an operation that I didn't need, had a baby that someone had stolen from me, and nearly died. [6 WEEKS - The fastest pregnancy on record one could say]. To say that I was a shell of a person, was an understatement. I was a walking zombie. I did ring the Doctor once I was home at his rooms in (...) Street, telling him I wanted my baby back. He told me he was gone and never to ring him again! BUT my son wasn't discharged until May 1st, he was still at the hospital. MORE LIES.

Then 7 weeks later one night there was a knock on the door.
There stood a policeman and policewoman. The hell started all over again.

These two started by asking me details etc about my having a baby etc.
They wanted me to make a statement as to how I got pregnant.
Who was the Father, etc etc.
I refused to answer their questions, and then they stated that if I didn't tell them, they would go to every relative of mine and tell them what had happened, they would go to all the neighbours etc and tell them as well. (Talk about bullying, intimidation tactics and threats) I was forced to name my boyfriend. I found out later that he had been arrested, but that there were no real grounds, so he was released after spending one night in the lockup. It was that night, (7 weeks after my baby had been born) that the police said to me **"You didn't care about your baby, you had 6 weeks to get him back and you didn't even try"**

I was dumbfounded, NEVER EVER BEFORE had anyone told me that I had time to get my baby back. Let alone how to do it. Why – they were too busy trying to steal our babies.

I was then taken down to the Kew CIB and interviewed etc by the detectives and again threatened and bullied. To this day I had no idea why.
The detectives kept ringing until one day I picked up the phone as my mother wasn't home, and he started on me again, I snapped and screamed at him that he was no more that a blackmailer, and guess what, I never heard from them again.

I found out 28 years later when I met my son, that he had been adopted by people old enough to be his **Grandparents**. His adoptive mother was a PATIENT of Dr. (...) (...) . So he had been earmarked and allocated to her as soon as this Doctor

told me about the Hospital run by his 'friend'. My son also told me that his adoptive father told him that he 'had cost them a LOT of money"

Sadly my son is a product of a lack of nurture, and he is not a nice person to know. His wonderful adoptive mother was bedridden from the time he was 8 and when he was 12 she was put into a Nursing home. His adoptive father got the children to school each morning, went to work, then came home cooked diner for them all, then left them alone, every night to visit his wife. These two children they adopted were left to bring themselves up. His adoptive mother died when my son was 17, at the age of 61 – (she was 44 when she adopted him.) Some years later his 'wonderful' adoptive father remarried, and didn't tell either of the children he adopted, until after the wedding!! What a wonderful parent he turned out to be!!

In adult life both my son and his unrelated sister, are now very dysfunctional people with a mass of problems. A legacy of these wonderful Adoptions and adoption in general!

My son would never have been brought up like he was, if he had not been stolen from me.

I would like to point out that when I read the Adoption papers of my son. I found out many things. He was adopted under the 1956 Adoption laws, and he was my child, my responsibility, until the very day he was actually adopted - June 18th 1964.

However this didn't stop them appointing a "Guardian *ad Litem*" for my son.
Why ??? I was his Mother. I was denied all decisions regarding him, he needed oxygen and other medical treatment, being premature. He was actually discharged from hospital on the 1st May 1964, and went to his Adoptive parents that day.
But I wasn't the one to make these decisions. WHY NOT?

[How did I know he was given Oxygen – they sent me the account from AGL !!!!!!
They couldn't ask me about his treatment, yet they expected me to pay for it.]

The Guardian *ad Litem*, appointed was the Rev. (...) , he was a minister of the Church of England Church in (...) , near where my son's adoptive parents lived. However they weren't members of his congregation!!!!
(So he told me when I met him).

As Guardian *ad litem*, he was supplied by the court with a copy of Rules 21 and 22 of the County Court Adoption Childrens Acts 1958.

Rule 21 states – (1) It shall be the duty of the guardian *ad litem* to investigate as fully as possible <u>all the circumstances of the infant and the applicant, and all other matters relevant to the proposed adoption</u>, with a view to safeguarding the interests of the infant, and, in particular, it shall be his duty to include in his investigation the following questions:-

a. Whether the statements in the applicant's affidavit are true and complete.
b. Whether any payment of other reward in consideration of the adoption
has been received or agreed upon and whether that payment, reward or agreement is consistent with the welfare of the infant;

c. Whether the means and status of the applicant are such as to enable him to maintain and bring up the infant suitably, and what right to or interest in property the infant has;

d. What insurance, if any has been effected on the life of the infant;

e. Whether it is desirable for the welfare of the infant that the Court should be asked to make an interim order or in making an adoption order to impose any particular terms or conditions or to require the adopter to make any particular provision for the infant.

(2) The guardian *ad litem* shall report in writing to the Judge the result of his investigation and shall also, if required by the Judge, to report to him verbally and shall also, if required by the Judge verify such report or reports or any part thereof by affidavit.

Rule 22 states – The guardian *ad litem* of the infant or where a body of persons is appointed such guardian *ad litem*, every officer of agent of the body shall regard all information obtained in the course of the investigation or otherwise in relation to the matter as confidential, and shall no divulge any part of it to any person except so far as may be necessary for the proper execution of his duty.

Under rule 21 – I consider that I should have been included in **"all the circumstances of the infant"**. But I wasn't!

Then this from Dr. John Bowlby (1) says it all.
"A guardian ad litem was appointed by the court, prior to the hearing of an adoption order. The Director General of the Department of Welfare had no authority within the 1958 Adoption Act (Victoria), BUT natural Mothers DID up until the granting of the adoption order. The Government had direct responsibility also.

In the book Child Care and Growth of Love - Dr. John Bowlby (2) Ma MA for the World Health Organisation explains as follows :-

Legal instructions and responsibilities for a guardian ad litem was to investigate and ensure that the mother was not MISLED OR UNINFORMED of the facilities available to help her to keep her child. These instructions includes homes licensed under the Child Welfare Act for the private care of children apart from their natural mother, financial assistance to unmarried mothers under Section 27 of the Child Welfare Act, taken to state control until the mother is in the position to care for her child and assistance to affiliate the child. His responsibility was also to defend actions on BEHALF OF THE CHILD investigate all the circumstances surrounding the adoption - interview ALL parties concerned including the natural mother/father and then make a full report to the court"

I WAS NEVER INTERVIEWED, I AM STILL WAITING. HIS REPORT WAS NEVER SUBMITTED, AND HE COULDN'T EVEN REMEMBER ATTENDING COURT! So he told me, when I went to see this retired Minister many years later, he actually went on to apologised to me for his inactions.

Today I have not only lost a son, but I have also lost a Granddaughter.

Adoption is evil, it not only effects the original people concerned but the ripple effect goes on and on for generations.

My son lost his Mother, Father, Brothers, Sisters, Aunts, Uncles, Cousins, Nieces, Nephews, and Grandparents. He also lost his name, his sense of family, his roots, his origins.

An apology would be good, BUT what would this achieve? A few weeks afterwards and everyone would have forgotten all about it.

I would like it acknowledged by the Australian Government, that what was done to me and other unmarried mothers was completely **ILLEGAL.**

WE NEED TO EDUCATE ALL OF AUSTRALIA, as to what happened to us, and what the long term ramifications of adoption does, to the Mother and Child.

- I would like to see that this education happens.
- All of Australia should know what happened to us.
- All of Australia should be educated as to why.
- All of Australia should understand how we were treated or should I say MISTREATED. We were bullied, threatened, called name's, we were shamed, brainwashed and conditioned, - so much so that 47 years on, I still can't tell people that I had a baby before I was married. Why – because we STILL get the same reaction and the same remarks come out of people's mouths. The mental abuse we were subjected too, is never ending. I will never be a completely whole person again.

We were not sluts, we were not bad, we wanted our babies but the people that we have been brought up to count on and to help us – Adults - our Parents, the Doctors, the Police etc. all turned on us and let us down. In fact they were all complicit in breaking the law and committing many serious crimes.

But you know what – we gave our children away – because we SIGNED papers. People look at these papers and assume that we signed willingly. My son did, and still thinks this way.

They do not know what pressure was put on us, and what we had to endure from adults who should have known better – adults who were breaking the law and knew it.

I was subjected to shaming, bullying, intimidation, threats, mental abuse and much much more.

Where did it get me – I am a mess, my son is a worse mess.

So who won in the end ??????????????????? NO ONE DID.
In other words it was a FAILED EXPERIMENT!

Where in any Australian State law, is it a crime to be pregnant?

Hitler just about eliminated the Jewish race with a racial and ethnic cleansing.
The powers that be just about eliminated us and stole our babies, with a moral cleansing.
Hitler also played around with eugenics to 'create' superior babies.
The powers that be played around with our babies and 'created' false superior families.

There is no difference in my mind between Hitler and everyone here in Australia, that did this to all the unmarried mothers.

Sources/Footnotes.

1. **John Bowlby** (26 February 1907–2 September 1990) was a British Psychologist, Psychiatrist and Psychoanalyst, notable for his interest in child development and for his pioneering work in attachment theory.

2. Bowlby J (1976) [1965]. Fry M (abridged & ed.). ed (Report, World Health Organisation, 1953 (above)). *Child Care and the Growth of Love*. Pelican books. Ainsworth MD (2 add. ch.) (2nd edn. ed.). London: Penguin Books. ISBN 0-14-013458-1. OCLC 15415005