ADOPTION SENATE ENQUIRY STATEMENT

Lynette Hinings-Marshall 1 June 2011

In 1992 I was one of the fortunate birth mothers who found her daughter through a private service in Queensland where she was born. I had left Australia because I could no longer live in the country and not know where my daughter was. But when the law changed in 1990 I immediately came back and added my details to Jigsaw, Dept. of Family Services, and Adoption Triangle. I did this twice a year until I found her.

I was 46 years of age at the time of our reunion and my daughter was 29 so we both had the benefit of some maturity to handle the delicate situation. On the surface it was a happy and seamless change in our lives. In reality it took more than ten years to achieve a balanced and trusting relationship.

One important reason for our happy ending was that my daughter filed paperwork to find me on Friday and received a call on Monday that I had been found. This was because of the link created through Adoption Triangle.

This meant that from the outset she knew that she was wanted which I feel is the most important factor for the adopted child.

I was also able to give her a locket with her baby photograph because I had cajoled a nurse into bringing her to me at night while I fought my mother and the Boothville Hospital administrators for several weeks. I refused to sign the adoption papers and each time they were presented stayed under one of the beds screaming until they left.

I lost!! Eventually I was told my signature was not required because I was underage. (17 years at the time) and I watched my daughter being taken from the hospital by her new parents. The black hole bored into my heart that day remained until the day I found her again. Do not believe that time takes care of this pain. It is simply sublimated as a survival mechanism.

It is not too late, and it is within your purview, to redress this situation.

You can have an apology issued by the government. All those children and mothers still unafraid to make contact can be re-assured that they were victims of two decades of morally reprehensible government beaurocracy and both were pawns in a cowardly chapter of Australian history.

You can assure the children that they were not given away; they were more often than not, wrenched from their mother's arms.

You can assure the birth mothers that they need not feel guilt as they were victims of inhuman crimes against them and had they given birth to their child just twenty years later they would not only be supported by society, but the same government would now

assist them financially.

Thank you for taking the time to read my comments.

Sincerely,

Lynette Hinings-Marshall (my details are on the email sent with this attachment)