9 May, 20011

I wish to add my voice to the issue of forced adoption.

I am I adoptee. I was born in Melbourne at St Vincent's Hospital and was adopted out via the Catholic Church to a loving family.
It was not until I was in my early 30's that the law changed and I was able to trace my birth mother and subsequently my birth father. My birth mother was unwed. My birth father did not take responsibility for me, except to give my birth mother 50 pounds and a suitcase. This was to pay for a trip to the eastern states and my abortion. Fortunately my birth mother left Perth, told no one and did not abort me.

I understand that many relinquishing mothers and adoptees have suffered because of things that happened in the past. I understand that relationships with birth relatives are difficult and not always happy. But society was a very different place over 50 years ago. The Government of the time was 'in step' with these times and did what was thought the best for everyone involved. In so many instances the relinquishing mother's parents were involved in this process.

So I write to say that I strongly disagree with apologies being made for mistakes of the past. It would be offensive to the Aboriginal 'stolen generation' for people like me to call ourselves the 'stolen white generation'. I am grateful that I was born in country where I had a chance for a better life with a good family. I do not think being raised as an illegitimate child of a single mother in the 50's would have been easy.