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Submission by Within These Walls not for profit organisation.
Secretary, Within These Walls c/- Perthville Post Office NSW 2795
secretarywithinthesewalls@gmail.com



Submission to the Parliament Committee, The Standing Committee on Social Policy and Legal Affairs inquiring into local adoption.

Term Of Reference Part 1

Stability & Permanency for children in out of home care with local adoption as a viable option.

A viable option should be flexible at all times- **no permanence**, which results in the babies-children or teenager losing their identity or connection to their inner circle of family members, (parents-siblings, grandparents, uncles, aunts, cousins). They are family first and foremost; their kinship is and always will be aligned by the law of nature. It is a part of them throughout life. NO court order or forever family made blend will remove the DNA bond. Especially, when they become self-aware and ask questions about why they have been permanently removal from their bio family. Adoption/permanency over time will affect their wellbeing, both emotionally and possibly physically, and in turn the next generation as well, when their children become self-aware and repeat these same questions. It not just a one fixes all option here; you got to look at the bigger picture not just one frame, there is a flow-on effect as well. Because of name changes and other events you find supposedly unrelated people marrying each other only to find out later there are siblings or first cousins! Yes, it has and still is happening, behind closed doors / brick walls.

In my own case my sister's son and my daughter could have married, if my husband and I remained in the same location as her (she is also an adoptee!) as we unknowing played squash years ago together. When we found each other after many brick walls from DOCS, and realised that f I never searched and she never knew and we stayed in that location, our daughter and her son could have developed a relationship. By law our children are not related, but by blood are 1st cousins!

The consequences of these arrangement for the benefit of those wanting to adopt another human being and in so doing create a new birth certificate which removes the person's right to their true identity and family connection means they are only thinking of their needs not those of the adopted person.

These children need a home and love. People open their homes for those in need in time of floods, fire and other world events. People don't have to replace their name to find a safe haven. So why do babies and children need to lose their identity to find a roof and food and love; in they don't need to lose their identity as well. It is a price that can kill them (literally).

The so-called need to have an easier and more accessible adoption process by some members of Australian society show there an underlying problem where those people who are not able to have children naturally need help and time for them to grieve their loss first, before they can be in the right frame of mind to nurture another person's baby. (It is NOT the same as giving a toy /doll to a child that's hurting or crying out for something). These people are saying they want to have adoption made easier because they are hurting and crying out to have a baby! This is not the child's problem, and not the fix to fix their

problem. The child needs a hand up: easier adoption is a hand up for those wanting adoption; for the child it is a hand down – a loss of dignity and who they really are.

Part 2.

Appropriate guiding principles for a national framework or code for local for adoption within Australia

Codes and framework

- **Admit that there a problem with adoption of children in all forms currently.**
- As long as this is on the table there will be those that have a want and need for babies/children/teenagers for their own needs.
- **Parents as well as Government welfare departments must be held accountable to the child until they reach adulthood/.** Including those that take them into care in all forms: foster, kinship, sponsor and any other name that is made up to bring up someone else's baby. Commit to being completely truthful with them about their background family connections that may not around in their life at that time.
- **Check to be made at least 4 times a year.** So that any medical or wellbeing issues are treated by appropriately qualified people with an understanding of their history.
- **Consider the consequences.** Sooner or later, if untruths are told to child about their origin, they will be exposed.
- **Set positive, life-enhancing goals together,** to work toward having connections across all areas of family bio roots, to give them a genuine hand up in life - not someone else's hand up - deceptive, pretentious ego-boosts by changing their birth certificate to relocate them into another family. Let them make that choice when they are able at Adulthood to change if they want to.
- **The true needs of the person.** Be aware of automatic, habituated, irrational thoughts - consider alternate, more positive choices that will help them meet their emotional needs with honesty and honour. The truth of who they are by their blood ancestors, not forever made families that are in place under current adoption law.
- **This in the long run** will in time save the government money as we are now seeing many adoptees with both physical and mental health problems because of adoption laws that are currently in place.

An letter to those that control adoption practices in NSW.

I am an adoptee who will be for rest of my life recovering from the long term effects of this practice. So far over 60 years of hardship with lock doors and brick walls by both DOC, & other government department and it not finish yet. Still looking for more family members remove from my life.

In reality you are listening to the wants/ needs of others people who have a vested interest to keep adoption in our community not those affect by it. The current practice of adoption which is to choose, remove, place and rename a person give them a prison sentence for life to be hidden away from their bio family.

I have been VIOLATED by the every system that is in place to protect me from harm. I have been given little to no ongoing support to enable me to locate missing family members and interact with them I had to do the research on my own.

Do I hate the adopted parents I do not! My needs, wants have always been to have my real parent's family members in my circle of contact for me to choose not someone else to say you can't have that information or contact.

People that adopt in reality are just carer/ foster people doing a job on the behalf of the parents and government when they can't/ will not do it To make things worse they can and do claim to be the true parents by a piece of paper to own us not birth us!

They can never replace the real deal of flesh and blood, the bond that ties us to our roots and is ever more apparent in today real world were adoptees and parents of loss working with the help of genealogists, using the internet, chat rooms, Facebook, and the main event these days, the big world-wide lottery event of DNA testing.

Humans can and do tell lies so yes there a possible of information been incorrect.

A DNA Database worldwide is matching the real family branches, telling us the truth! Who we are... what we are.... and who is family..... Where they are!

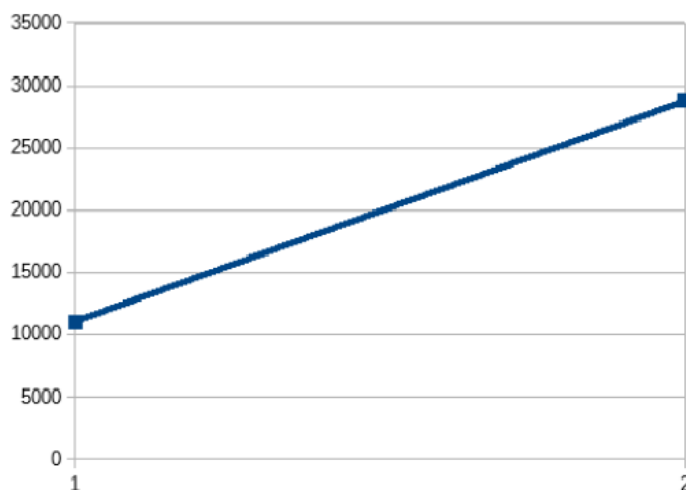
*An Adoptee who has found her True Voice and Identity But can't use it!
Vicki Hewitt.*

No longer a child! But I have this ongoing suffering, having no right to reclaim my past. Normal Australian, New South Wales born people have this right! Myself, other adoptees need/ want this right too.

Mrs Kerri Small.

Owner; President, Within These Walls / DNA Advisor Australian DNA Hub.

<https://www.australiandnahub.org.au/>



The above chart represents a steady increase in website hits the Australian DNA Hub is receiving. This representation illustrates a 162% increase in web site traffic since launch in 2012, 11,000 and 28,806 hits respectively with continued growth. On average we are receiving upwards of 1000 hits a week with a constant stream of enquiries asking for assistance from the organisation about how to find family and remove adoption from their life.

Further notice:

I invite the committee members to contact me for ongoing discuss about this submission in fuller details.

Within These Walls is a not for profit group where adoptees and others people effected by adoption Australia wide are helping find their identity that been lost through adoption.