

I wish to address the issue of adoptees' birth certificates. It is deeply distressing that my real identity was stripped away and replaced with a new identity. The fact that I have two birth certificates (and was denied access to the original for many years) can only be described as cruel and absurd. I would like to see my whole life story recorded officially on one document.

Below is a copy of correspondence sent to then Minister McGurk in 2021:

From: Sue Maynard [REDACTED]

Date: 29 March 2021 at 1:17:24 PM AWST

To: Minister.McGurk@dpc.wa.gov.au

Subject: Adoptees' birth certificates

Dear Minister McGurk,

I was pleased to learn legislation has been passed in NSW allowing issue of Integrated Birth Certificates to adopted people. I am writing to ask you if there is a similar plan for West Australian adoptees.

I am an adoptee who was born in Perth, and there are two separate certificates recording my birth. Neither of these certificates is a complete record of the story of my birth. For much of my life, my biological background was airbrushed from history, and I have been trying to reclaim this part of my identity as far as I can. I see an Integrated Birth Certificate as an important way of assisting me to build a sense of my whole identity.

I urge you to follow the lead of your NSW counterparts. Please advise if this matter is under consideration here in WA.

Thank you and best wishes, Sue Maynard

Below is Minister McGurk's reply:

Dear Ms Maynard

Thank you for your correspondence received 29 March 2021 regarding Integrated Birth Certificates. I apologise for the delay in responding to you.

I note your comments about the New South Wales legislation in relation to Integrated Birth Certificates

and that you see such a birth certificate, if available in Western Australia (WA), would be an important

way of assisting you to build a sense of your whole identity.

The WA Adoption Act 1994 ("the Act") is reviewed every five years, with the last review occurring in

2018. As Minister for Child Protection, I tabled the report in Parliament which included 31 recommendations including consent to adoption, access to information, and paramount considerations, guiding principles and the best interests of the child. Five recommendations have since been implemented by the Department of Communities (Communities) and preliminary consideration has been given to the remaining 26 recommendations, which will require legislative amendments in due course. A copy of this report can be downloaded from Communities' website at www.dcp.wa.gov.au/Pages/Adoptionactreview.aspx

Integrated Birth Certificates were not considered as part of that review, nor were they raised in any public submissions. Communities regularly attends Adoption Sector meetings with other agencies to discuss such issues, and is committed to supporting everyone involved in the adoption process.

As the next review will occur in 2023 and IBC's would require a legislative change to the Act, I have

referred your email to Communities for consideration in respect to possible future amendments.

If you have any further queries, please contact [REDACTED] Adoption Services at

Communities by telephone on [REDACTED] or by email at [REDACTED]

Thank you for bringing this matter to my attention.

Yours sincerely

HON SIMONE McGURK MLA

MINISTER FOR CHILD PROTECTION; WOMEN'S INTERESTS;

PREVENTION OF FAMILY AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE; COMMUNITY SERVICES

2 June 2021

In addition to the above, I would like to have my biological father's name recorded on my birth certificate. He died in 2016 so is unable to give consent, however in his Will he referred to me as his daughter.

Thank you for consideration of my requests.