

## Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices

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A late discovery adoptee from Victoria

1. I missed the Victorian Inquiry, thus I am making this short submission to this inquiry.
2. We immediately need:
  - a. ALL adopted persons in Australia, to know the truth about their 'real' identity. There are many adoptees who have not been told about their adoptive status. This is inhumane and will certainly have negative affects for their health, because they might be following the medical history of their adoptive parents.
    - It has been recommended by some prominent adoptee-rights advocates, that medical professionals (GPs) could be involved in this process.
  - b. FREE Medical DNA testing for all adoptees and their offspring (for at least 2 generations, adoptees and their children).
    - Even for those who've had contact with their natural parents, the medical information is often not forthcoming.
    - Non-adopted people grow up hearing, day in day out, about the health concerns of their parents. They also hear about their historical medical information/history, such as whether diabetes runs in the family for example.
    - We, adoptees, are largely kept in the dark. It is documented, that adoptees sufferer poorer health outcomes compared to non-adopted. These studies, largely from the USA, point to clinically significant and clinically non-significant differences across both mental and physical health for adoptees.
    - It needs to be more strongly recognised by government, that lack of knowledge of heritable disease, is one primary cause of the development and course of a disease.
    - Adoptees need free or subsidised DNA medical testing.
  - c. The identity of adopted children should not be publicised in the media. The child/youth cannot give proper informed consent, and they may not want their adoptive status circulating in the media.
  - d. The 'forced' nature of our adoptions, largely goes unrecognised. A well-made TV series, documentary, widely circulated, may be of assistance.