

**From:** [ARCS Reception](#)  
**To:** [Environment and Public Affairs Committee](#)  
**Subject:** arcs - Submission - Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices  
**Date:** Friday, 23 June 2023 4:27:53 PM  
**Attachments:** [image001.png](#)  
[Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices\\_submission arcs.docx.doc](#)  
[Senate Inquiry Recommendations.docx](#)

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Dear Committee

Thank you for the opportunity to present a submission to the Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices (see attachments).

Arcs has not been involved in any action or meetings requesting an Inquiry.

We have been providing services to those affected by adoption since 1983. We see all parties to adoption; mother, father, adopted children and adults, adopted parents and family.

In our professional experience we see that those affected by adoption all have their own unique experience and response.

However there are common themes. The pain, loss, grief and separation feature heavily in adoption.

The secrecy involved in past adoption, the belief that children are a “clean slate” and that some mothers are somehow more worthy than others has had deep consequences.

We see on a daily basis the life long impact of past adoption practices that disempowered and traumatised young women by removing their babies from their care. The women were shamed and left feeling they had nothing to offer their child.

Children suffer from the brutal severance of ties to their mother and family. Children are not a “clean slate”.

The impact of past adoption practices on peoples lives is incorrigible and has life long repercussions.

I have worked as a therapist and as a manger of arcs since 1996.

I am a trained social worker and psychotherapist.

I would welcome the opportunity to appear in person to your panel.

Regards,

*Jennifer*

Jennifer Newbould  
Manager/Clinical Social Worker/Psychotherapist



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