

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Environment and Public Affairs Committee](#)
Subject: Forced Adoption submission
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SUBMISSION TO THE GOVERNMENT OF WESTERN AUSTRALIA'S STANDING COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS INQUIRY INTO PAST FORCED ADOPTIONS.

I can not definitively state that I was forcibly adopted, I can only state that it is what I was been told by my birth mother.

I wish I knew the truth, I doubt it would matter anymore though. In my case the truth will never be spoken. I no longer have any contact with my birth mother, nor do I want to. I was adopted by my Maternal Aunt and Uncle. This meant that many family members had their own agenda when it came to the truth, none of whom considered my own mental health.

I was taken to Wanslea Children's Home in November 1978 by my birth mother and her boyfriend along with a set of twin brothers. I was imprisoned both mentally and physically during my stay. Denied access to my 13 month old brothers, physically assaulted by staff and only 1 week later permanently separated from the family I knew. I was 3 and a half years old.

My record from Wanslea states the following;

- I was afraid of the dark. Still can be.
- I was undernourished as were my brothers on admission. I have photos of the three of us which appear to refute this.
- My birth father died in a cray fishing accident. My birth father

was alive on admission and died June 1980 in a mining accident. This information was given by my natural father's parents apparently. This was not corroborated by them before their death.

- My natural mother wanted to marry her current boyfriend, but he wouldn't raise another man's children hence her decision. I believe there is some truth in this.

My file from Wanslea appears to be a collection of truths and mistruths possibly perpetrated by a collection of people including my birth mother, her boyfriend, my natural father's parents and I suspect authorities as well.

My natural mother stated that she never put us all for adoption, only to be fostered. She states that she was forced to sign me and my brothers over as her request for foster care was refused. My adoptive mother states that her sister told her that I was at Wanslea Children's Home and that if she wanted me she could go get me. Who do you believe?

Adopted children were nothing more than commodities. Authorities informed my adoptive mum that she was not allowed to interfere in my brothers adoption or she would not be allowed to adopt me. She was advocating for a local family to adopt my brothers. This would likely have allowed some contact between us, but just like my time at Wanslea the bond between a sister and her brothers held no importance. She was threatened with kidnapping charges after getting permission to collect me in an attempt to get her to stop. My brothers were subsequently adopted by a couple who had lost a set of twin boys in-utero only a month or two earlier. One of my brothers believe they were nothing more than a replacement set. I understand his point. Both brothers have incredibly dysfunctional relationships with their adoptive parents. They no longer speak to each other, have trouble having any form of relationship and one has no relationship with his own children.

In my case, I have severe abandoned issues as a result of watching

my mother walk away. I fear getting too close to people which makes it hard to connect with people in any form. My children know they are everything to me but they don't realise how hard I fight and try to make sure they know this and not push them aside out of fear of losing them. I suffered physical, mental and sexual abuse as a result of my adoption. Nightmares and night terrors were a regular occurrence and continued until I returned to Wanslea Children's Home and finally understood them. Feelings of inadequacy and being unwanted continue to haunt and affect my decisions.

All adoptions can leave both adopted children and the parent/s who relinquished them with lingering issues, ptsd, ect. I can't honestly say that my adoption is not the sole cause of all my issues, but it certainly contributed. I have had issues with low self worth and self esteem my entire life. I can self sabotage all aspects of my life without knowing, because if my own mother didn't want me why would anyone. Self sabotage prevents further hurt and on the opposite the chance at real happiness. Adoption, regardless of it being forced or not, leaves scars of differing levels and healing is a very long road which often is never ending.