

From: [REDACTED]
To: [Environment and Public Affairs Committee](#)
Subject: Inquiry into past forced adoptive policies and practices - Bob Peters - 6 Aug 23
Date: Sunday, 6 August 2023 11:38:30 AM

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I have just seen the article in the ABC news on this inquiry. My story does not fit the terms of reference, although I have had a very close role in the topic of adoptions for some time. As a consequence I have very strong views on the matter.

My late mother was adopted in England in 1925. She did not know this until 1946 when a friend working in the registry office told her. My mother was devastated – and promised never to tell her very much loved adopted father. The discovered original birth certificate showed her mother’s name – but not her father’s. She longed to know who she was and often talked about it when I was a child. I was born in 1954 in Mt Barker.

In 1987 my wife and late father ventured into genealogy and after some time found what had become of my mother’s mother – and my mother was able to meet 2 of her 3 half sisters born to my mother’s mother. This meant a great deal to my mother. Her mother had died many years before.

It was not until the advent of Ancestry.com’s DNA service in 2015 that I was able to find my mother’s father. This was too late for my mother who died in 2006. She would loved to have known and met a half sister and brother on her father’s side. I have met their descendants in England and that meant a great deal to me. My older brother and sister have too. We now understood our mother and ourselves much better.

I have since become quite expert in freely helping adopted people and others with unknown parents, grandparents, etc – find their biological ancestors using DNA matching and family tree building. I have helped about 30 people in this way. The thanks I have received are overwhelming. Many people so desperately want to know ‘who they are’. In all cases it has helped explain why they look as they do – and the way they think, their characters, and much more. It gives some form of closure.

My involvement in this topic has made me absolutely certain that **every person has the absolute right to know the identity of their parents**. I believe this far outweighs the rights of parents. If this inquiry can do nothing else, it would be wonderful if it could recommend that as a foundation principle in the topic of adoption.

I am happy for my name to be attached to this submission and to help in any way.

Bob Peters

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