

Association for Adoptees

Submission- (added content)

Child Protection and Other Legislation Amendment Bill 2020

Adoption

Association for Adoptees

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To the Committee Secretary
Community Support and Services Committee.

Association for Adoptees provided a submission last year in regard to this inquiry. We are now providing additional information to compliment that submission.

This submission is in response to the proposed Bill.

- Enhance the approach to permanency under the Child Protection Act 1999
- Clarify that adoption is an option for achieving permanency for children in care, as part of a suite of alternative long term care options available and
- Clarify that importance of and promote alternative permanency options for children under the long term guardianship order to the Chief executive.

Association for Adoptees is a lobby and support group for Adoptees in Queensland. We work in collaboration with other support groups and stakeholders who believe that the adoption should remain the last resort for children in care.

We are providing the following group names to highlight the extent of help and support required to those affected by adoption. This list provided is in no way the extent of groups we have contact with and to whom we share information and support networks, for those affected by adoption.

The following groups make up over 12,364 voices collectively

Association for Adoptees	* Adoptees Speak	*You Gave Me a Voice
#adoptionredressnow	* Anti- Adoption	*Within These Walls
Conversation about Adoption	*Adoption Support Sunshine Coast	
Abolish Adoption Australia	*Adoption Support Gold Coast	
Living with Adoption	*Adoption Truth and Transparency World Wide network	

Association for Adoptees sits on the stakeholder group meetings with the Queensland Department of Adoption and Permanent Care. Which also consist of Jigsaw Qld, Origins, You gave me a Voice, ALAS and the Post Adoption Services Qld, (Benevolent Society)

The above groups represent domestic and international adoptions, and the exposes the urgent need to investigate the high need of adoptees seeking support. In light of such need for services, support and assistance, we request that the adoption Bill not be accepted.

Association for Adoptees are alarmed about the high number of suicidal harm amongst adoptees each year and the ever increasing, number of adoptees seeking mental health services.

We have attached a list of statistics, reports, and statements, by professionals and media as a part of our original submission. We are providing this short list, based upon statements made by the committees (previous report), individuals, and organisation such as AdoptChange; " That they want overseas models of adoption such as the UK and America to be replicated here." Adoptees within Australia are horrified at such statements.

Thanking You

Association for Adoptees

Kerri Saint and Judy Glover

The Alarming Facts of Adoption, a brief View; By Association for Adoptees

The following are a number of findings from the UK and the USA on adoption and Queensland should never consider modelling adoption from either of these countries. These, alarming statistics and findings on the harmful and dangerous policies and practices of adoption in these countries are warning to Queensland. Both countries have appalling rates of children that have been murdered, abused, mistreated, and re-homed. Re-homing is when, a child is sent back to the system, such as foster care or institution, in the hope to be re-adopted.

The human rights abuses to thousands of adopted children each year in America alone, is staggering.

The inquiry into "Modern Day Slavery", exposed that the trade of children using orphanages for adoption in many countries is nothing more than " Modern Day Slavery "

We Implore the Committee to carefully read each and every list of incidence/statistics/ and statements provided.. In no way have we even touched the surface of the crimes against adopted children and failures of adoption in general.

Queensland currently still does not have the capacity or services to provide the follow up care needed for adoptees. The refusal of the Queensland government to recognise and apologize to past victims of abuse, by adoptive parents and not providing ongoing support past 12 months of an adoption placement, is unacceptable.

- Adopted Children are disproportionately represented with learning disabilities and organic brain Syndrome. (Schechter and Genetic Behaviours)
- Mental health professionals are surprised at the alarmingly high number of their patients who are adopted. (Lifton, Birco- Pannor and Lawrence)
- Studies show an average of 25 to 35% of the young people in residential treatment centers are adoptees. This is 17 times the norm. (Lifton, Birco-Panner and Lawrence.)
- Adoptees are more likely to have difficulties with drug and alcohol abuse, as well as eating disorders, attention deficit disorder, infertility, suicide and untimely pregnancies. (Young, Bohman, Mitchell, Ostroff, Ansfield,Lifton and Schecter)
- Alarmingly high numbers of adoptees are sent to disciplinary/correctional schools or are locked out of their adoptive homes. (Anderson and Carlson)
- 60 to 85% of teens at Coldwater Canyon's Center for Personal Development, are adopted. That is 30 to 40 times the norm. The centre is a private acute-care psychiatric hospital/school in Southern California. (Ostroff)

- 50 to 70 % of the teens at the Haven resource centre for street kids, in New Trier Township, Illinois, are adopted. That is 25 to 35 times the norm. (Henderson)
- Nancy Newton Verrier, PhD writes..” I believe that the connection established during the nine months in utero is a profound connection, and it is my hypothesis that the severing of that connection in the original separation of the adopted child from the birth mother causes a primal or narcissistic wound, which affects the adoptees sense of Self and often Manifests in a sense of loss, basic mistrust, anxiety and depression, emotional and/or behavioural problems, and difficulties in relationships with significant others. Nancy Verrier is also an adoptive mother and is well respected for her work by adoptees, in particular.
- Greif and loss. The very nature of adoption is centred on the concept of loss. The mothers, father, adopted persons, extended family members and adoptive parents all experience loss through adoption. Further, individuals who do not undertake the normal grieving process are susceptible to pathological grief. The result of an abnormally prolonged grieving process that has maladaptive impacts. (Bloch & Singh, 2010)
- Anxiety, is evident that adopted persons, mothers and some fathers affected by adoption have, or are continuing to experience, symptoms associated with panic disorder, generalised anxiety and other symptoms and disorders (Kenny 2012; Senate inquiry, 2012). Anxiety symptoms and disorders are common responses among people who have been exposed to trauma (Brier & Scott, 2013)
- Trauma, The value of a “Trauma-aware” approach to service deliver is becoming more recognised when working therapeutically with people who have experienced significant events that affect a person’s sense of self (Wall & Quadara, 2014) This includes people affected by forced adoption and who are separated from family.
- The lessons learnt from past practice require reflection on the future of adoption. The vast majority of people affected by forced adoption would like to see the total abolition of adoption..It cannot be in a child’s best interest to have all aspects of his or her past obliterated from the record..Professor Nahum Mushin retired family law judge Australia.
- Many of those affected by forced adoption policies and practices continue to struggle with the ongoing mental, physical, and social health problems because of their adoption experience. There is now evidence of the wide-ranging psychological impacts, including complex and/or pathological grief and loss, self-identity and attachment issues, anxiety and depression disorders, and symptoms or posttraumatic stress disorder. (Australian Psychological Society 2014)

- Criticism of the UK's adoption laws include Britain's most senior authority on family law, Baroness Bulter Sloss, the former president of the High Court family division. Peers are worried that the focus on adoption could break up families unnecessarily.
- Former Judge Alan Goldsacks QC call for all babies to be forcibly removed from Criminal families at birth for adoption has been strongly criticised UK News 2017
- 2017 UK families say adoptive families are being driven to crisis point, due to 'extraordinary lack of support' - Independent New UK.
- More than a quarter of adoptive families are in crisis, according to a survey by the BBC and Adoption UK. Almost 3,000 responded to the survey. Where it revealed that families are sending children back because they cannot cope, family disruption and breakup in most cases due to a complete lack of support. Dr Sue Armstrong Brown, chief executive of Adoption UK said, "The survey results broadly mirror what we already knew-that many families are experiencing serious challenges. In a utopian world all adoptive parents experiences would be 'fulfilling and stable' but this is not the case.
- Around 5,500 children are adopted in the UK every year, with the majority of adoptions involving children over the age of 1 and many under the age of 5 and yet results are still poor. 2% are 1, 71% aged 1-4, 24% between the age 5-9.
- In one case alone in 2011, 3 adopted children were abused over 10 years by adoptive parents. Proving the system is flawed. Professionals were swayed by perceptions and assumptions about the couples class, professional status, and academic qualifications. The Cheshire East Local Safe Guard Board found these parents should never have been allowed to adopt. The Children were subject to repeated and systemic physical abuse and emotional harm and neglect.
- The Mirror UK- Parents in the UK are sending adopted children back into care. Repeatedly stories are being told of abuse by adoptive parents, one recent story exposed an adoptee suffering abuse for decades by the adoptive mother.
- There have been reported cases, which have drawn significant criticism from the Judiciary; for example, Lord Justice Aiken describes the way social workers had acted in the case before him as being more suited to "Stalin's Russia" or Mao's China than the West of England. Once a child is placed for adoption the child and parents have no recourse open to them to reverse the process even when evidence comes to light that shows that the reasons for the adoption were flawed. Families are, prohibited by court order from publicly discussing their cases.

- Resistance to overturning adoption orders once made on the basis of being in the best interest of the child has been criticised by the Council of Europe as based on the misunderstanding of what is meant by the words "In the child's best interest."
- Concerns are that children from lower income families are targeted. Over 90% of children forcibly adopted in the UK come from families that live below the poverty line and then placed with middle class families, despite counter arguments that child abuse and neglect are NOT a class issue.
- Car plunged off cliff in California. The 6 adopted Children were believed to have perished. Child Protection workers were investigating that 3 of the children were being starved days before they died. One of the couple had dark history of child abuse that was not flagged by the adoption agency. One child's teacher in 2011 noticed bruising on the 6-year-old Sarah one of the parents was charged with domestic assault. New York Post 2018.
- Russia children's rights commissioner Pavel Astakhov scathing as 20th adopted child killed in 11 years in the US, by adoptive parents. 2013 radio Europe.
- Death of toddler in Texas prompts call from India to end intercountry adoptions. The continued death of adopted children proves the system does not work.
- Two adoptee support groups in the USA that expose abuse and mistreatment to adoptees are Pound Puppy Legacy and Bastard Nation..Share 100's/1000's of stories of children who were adopted and abused, and or re-homed. 60 minutes Australia and America exposed the disgusting practice of re-homing of children, where they are given to strangers when an adoption placement fails. Those children either turn up dead, abused, sold as a sex slaves or never heard of again, etc and rarely ever find their forever family.
- Moses Farrow, the adopted son of Hollywood actors Mia Farrow and Woody Allen exposes that he and his siblings were abused. Three of his siblings have since committed suicide. Eric Lax, book "Woody Allen and the Art of Moviemaking" Moses Farrow "youtube"
- Three adopted children were systematically abused for 10 years, by their adoptive mother Dr Jill Newcombe-Buley who slapped, and smothered them whilst her husband Nicholas Newcombe ignored the abuse. The case exposed that the abuses were predictable and preventable. Professionals were swayed by "perceptions and assumptions" about the couples class, professional status, and academic qualifications. The chair of the Safeguarding Children Board, David Mellow, has apologised to the children on behalf of authorities. BBC NEWS 2011.
- Child abuse charges against YouTube Channels Arizona adoptive mother, underscore lack of oversight for adopted children. Adoptive mother forced her 7 adopted children to perform

for 800,000 subscribers with 242million views, amounting to \$20,000 per sponsored video. Criminal charges reveal a worst-case scenario of abuse and neglect, withholding food, water, and bathroom access as well as pepper spraying and beating her children from head to as punishment if they did not perform. Elizabeth Chuck reporter NBC News.

- Carrie Goldman, a social media expert who used her own experience as an adoptive mother to also become an adoption advocate, said she feared that the complex emotions that come with being adopted may have made an already terrible situation even worse for the Arizona children. “ Adoptive children, in particular, are already more vulnerable to feeling like they have to earn their keep or to feeling like if they don’t perform, they will be given back or given away” NBC News March 21 2019.
- Huff Post 2017 “Can Adoption Lead To Child Abuse? In three cases where children were apparently punished to death, all the victims were adopted. Merely grisly coincidence ? Or cause and effect that society needs to face?
- Knoxville Tennessee 30 October 2020. A Tennessee man has been charged with murder and abuse involving children his parents adopted, just days after his parents pleaded not guilty to similar charges, according to a published report. ABC NEWS.
- BBC News 28th October 2019. Adoption breakdown: “ No support’ for violent children. The Charity Adoption UK said, about two thirds of adoptive parents encounter aggression and violence from their adopted children, while lawyers specialising in adoption cases told the BBC his firm got referrals from all over the country from families who felt a lack of support forcing parents to give up their adopted children. According to Adoption UK, up to 65% of adoptive parents experience violence of aggression.
- Queensland hides its crimes against adopted children. Our adoption system fails to identify children abused and or murdered by adoptive parents due to no oversight, or data gathered. The adopted child’s birth certificate is changed so that the child’s adoption status is never registered or flagged. The same applies to deaths caused by suicide. (2021) Association For Adoptees
