

## **Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022**

**Submission No: Submitted** 190

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**See attached:**

## **Submission**

### **Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Bill 2022**

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#### **Introduction ....**

My baby was born 7<sup>th</sup> January 1972 at Mater Mothers Brisbane and named Paul Allen Morley. I was told over and over that I couldn't possibly raise him, that I couldn't afford him, that he needed a married mother and father. He was removed from the birthing room immediately. I was legally his mother for 7 days, but he was hidden from me and I never ever saw him. We were both punished in the most severe way.

Shane (as he is now known as) was taken home to his adoptive parent's home at 25 days post (forced) relinquishment. I was never told of any 30 day revocation period. I accidentally found out around 60 days.

I would never have searched for Shane, because I had been told while in the hospital that he was so ill that he most likely would not get to leave. I was scared to have that confirmed. I preferred to hope that he was still alive, and out there enjoying his "wonderful life" that I had been told I could not provide for him.

Our reunion has been one of the few very successful ones. Our family has completely embraced him into our family. But he was disowned by his adoptive family, BECAUSE he found me.

As a now adult (51 year old), Shane dearly wants to legally BELONG to a family – his OWN family – but the law as it currently stands makes that almost impossible. Like a child, he is virtually expected to "ask" his adoptive family if that is OK. They don't care anyhow, and out of spite would make this simple request as difficult as possible for him. He has even legally changed his name from his adopted name, to get away from some of the trauma. He wants his truth restored.

#### **Questions I would like addressed are ....**

Why are adult adoptees treated as eternal children?

Why are adoptees bound by a life long (and beyond) 'contract' that they had absolutely no say in? Even into adulthood? Surely the contract is to do with out-of-home care, which should be limited to 18 years.

Why should adoptees be forced to have to pay to rectify these wrongs?

When will a no-fault no-fee no-fuss Discharge be made readily available to adult adoptees who desperately wish to sever that contract that they were not privy to signing? This is tantamount to slavery.

As a Certificate of Marriage is a legal accurate record of marriage, and a Certificate of Death is a legal accurate record of death, so to a Birth Certificate (in my opinion) should be a legal accurate record of birth. Why do current adoption Birth Certificates record a lie?

Our laws and widely held views of adoption have been formed by professionals and by the adults who adopted the children ... not by the children (now adults), or by the mothers who lost their children to the practice. When will you consult with adoptees to help form useful legislation?

Adoption is supposedly to provide care to a baby/child who requires out-of-home care to a generally recognised age of 18 years old. Why does this contract (that they had no input to) stretch into their whole life and beyond? Where is the help and assistance to undo adoptions that were illegal and unethical in the first place which was proven in our Senate Inquiry? When will it be made easier for adoptees to undo their adoption when it goes wrong? It's a contract they never personally entered into. It was made on their behalf without their consent. No one ever explained the terms & conditions to them, therefore it shouldn't apply once they turn 18, or if they're being abused before then. It's easier to get out of an abusive marriage. It's next to impossible to get out of an abusive or unwanted adoption ... IF you are the adoptee. Adoptors can rehome adoptees, but adoptees are not free to rehome themselves - even when they have a biological parent who wants them back. If they can't get out, and the adoptors have ownership papers, it's basically slavery. Adoption is NOT about creating families. First it is about destroying families.

## **Human Rights ....**

I'd like to remind the Department of the rights and responsibilities under various articles of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, ratified by Australia in 1989 ....

<https://www.savethechildren.org.uk/content/dam/global/reports/uncrc-child-friendly-version.pdf>  
... (as a side note) these ALL refer to children, not adults.

And to draw attention to the wording in the National Apology for Forced Adoptions held in Canberra on 21 March 2013 .....

<https://www.ag.gov.au/About/ForcedAdoptionsApology/Documents/Nationalapologyforforcedadoptions.PDF>

and the Queensland Apology for Past Forced Adoption Practices read in Queensland Parliament by the then Premier, the Honourable Campbell Newman MP on 27 November 2012 .....

[https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0026/53882/apology-forced-adoption.pdf](https://www.qld.gov.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0026/53882/apology-forced-adoption.pdf)

## **Conclusion ....**

This legislation in its current form is a breach of Human Rights for natural mothers, fathers, adoptees, donor conceived people and people affected by surrogacy.

Relevant links about Human Rights legislation and adoption are:

<https://www.qhrc.qld.gov.au/search?query=adoption&collection=qld-gov&form=simple-new&profile=adcq>

<https://www.ag.gov.au/families-and-marriage/national-apology-forced-adoptions/reference-group>

<https://www.ag.gov.au/rights-and-protections/human-rights-and-anti-discrimination/human-rights-scrutiny/public-sector-guidance-sheets/right-name-and-acquire-nationality>

Introduce birth certificates that detail the plain truth of a child's birth. These birth certificates may be expanded to include any subsequent parental changes or sex changes.

Identity IS important .... especially to adoptees, to donor conceived and those born of surrogacy .... in essence, to everyone. Their mental health depends on knowing their truth.

Why have Inquiries if no one listens to those directly affected?

Regards,  
Lesley Mitchell