

From: [Inquiry into responses to historical forced adoptions in Victoria](#)
To: [forcedadoptionsinquiry](#)
Subject: New Submission to Inquiry into responses to historical forced adoptions in Victoria
Date: Monday, 27 January 2020 12:59:03 PM

Inquiry Name: Inquiry into responses to historical forced adoptions in Victoria

Ms Hannah Spanswick
[REDACTED]

SUBMISSION CONTENT:

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Losing a child through adoption leaves a lasting wound that never heals irrespective of whether or not a subsequent relationship is established. Nothing can replace the lost years caused by the primal wound of separation for either mother or child. With first-hand experience of the adoption industry as it was in 1964, I continue to suffer from the effects of my loss, regardless of the effort I make to integrate my experience into daily life. Having lost a subsequent child to cancer I understand the difference between losing a child through adoption as opposed to illness. With the latter, I can visit my son's grave, lay flowers and continue to feel a connection to him, through the life we shared together. There are memories and photographs to prove his existence. I can talk about him openly because my family and friends shared in his loss and grieved with me. None of that exists or applies to the child I lost through adoption. Being a 'birthmother' can be a solitary and lonely experience. Having free or subsidised access to counseling by skilled practitioners would be invaluable. As I grow older, knowing that establishing any kind of relationship with my son or his children is unlikely to occur, just increases the pain suffered by the original trauma, making the need for psychological support even more critical. I sincerely hope that the provision of affordable and ongoing psychological services will be made available to any person with an adoption experience that has had and or continues to have, a negative impact on their health and well-being.

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File1:

File2:

File3: