

LEGAL & SOCIAL ISSUES
COMMITTEE
PARLIAMENT HOUSE,
SPRING ST,
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

As a person who has been affected by the past forced adoption procedures I wish to make a submission.

On the 12th July 1963 my daughter, [REDACTED] was born at the Salvation Army "Haven" in Melbourne. I was 14 years old. My boyfriend ([REDACTED] father) resided in Hobart but kept in contact with me via mail every day. We married 4th April 1964.

At the Haven I worked from 6am, 6 days per week as a cleaner up until the birth of [REDACTED]. I was given no wage except a small amount of pocket money for a tram fare to purchase personal items eg. soap etc, on my day off. My mother paid the amount of money asked for by Matron [REDACTED] regularly every fortnight for my board. Meals consisted of brisket, hash and bread, (no fresh vegetables or fruit). One young staff "lieutenant", was in charge of around 30 girls, she was also the cook. Bullying was prevalent, girls from the Winlaton Correction Home were transferred there also. I stopped eating through stress and lack of appetite. No-one noticed. Tinned food arrived via trucks but never got onto the table. No heating in freezing dorms meant damp clothing to wear as there was no airing facilities. Dim lighting was used to save electricity so we lived in semi darkness.

I still have an eating disorder to this day.