

**From:** [Faye Burnham](#)  
**To:** [forcedadoptionsinquiry](#)  
**Subject:** Inquiry into Response to Measures for Historical Forced Adoptions  
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To the Inquiry

I lost my daughter in May 1969, ironically she was born on Mother's Day. I was completely broken hearted by her loss. I also had to endure all of the prejudices and humiliations that are prevalent around losing her as well as the continued heartache.

I went to Canberra to hear in person the findings of the Federal Inquiry into Forced Adoptions. To hear these women on the panel speak out loud about all of the things that I had endured in silence was truly life changing. To actually be acknowledged as having worth as a person took my breath away.... Now things would change. Then we had the Victorian Government officially Apologise and what a great day that was. I also attended the Federal Governments Apology which was once again a special day to me.

My huge disappointment is that no free counselling has been provided. I have had counselling most of my adult life as I needed it to help me stay even and to help me deal with the issues surrounding the trauma. The cost of counselling has been very difficult to manage and even harder now. I wanted to function as a useful member of society and a useful member of my family. I am involved with organisations that have provided some support for me over the years. These are volunteer. I have found that most people in society have no idea what myself and other women who lost children, went through. There is still no acknowledgement in larger society of the coercion and bullying and illegal tactics that were used by places such as the Royal Women's Hospital where I had my daughter. ( the Royal Women's Hospital gave the most pathetic half hearted Apology I have ever heard) There is still a lot of judgement made by society especially amongst more conservative members.

Most people do not look at Adoption in a real way. It is still seen as some kind of lovely fairy story. They do not think about the devastation of the mother who loses her most precious part. Or the child who loses his/her very identity. They see this couple get a baby, how lovely, the heartbroken couple who could not conceive. All other real issues are completely ignored. The Apologies have done nothing to change this perception. In fact Governments are supporting Celebrities who promote this fake image. I have to say....IT IS NOT SOCIETIES JOB TO PROVIDE CHILDREN FOR CHILDLESS COUPLES. I am not without sympathy for those childless couples but they do not have the right to take someone else's, or to abuse women by using their womb for that matter. These situations conveniently ignore the powerful physiological connection between mother and baby.

I was actually thinking that after the Apology, (that most people don't even know took place) that things would change but they haven't really.

I would like to see free counselling and it would be nice to get some compensation for the many thousands I have had to spend over the years, It would be great to not have to declare myself mentally ill, which I am not, to get a few dollars off my counselling sessions. I would like to see more acceptance and more publicity regarding what was done to me and many thousands of naive young women. I would like to see our children learn how we yearned for them and to really **know they were not rejected by us.**

My life was completely altered by losing my child, my career possibilities were completely lowered by my loss of self worth and shame and my struggle with coping with the trauma. I was thrilled with the Governments Apologies and their part acknowledgement of the

experience. But since then it has been quite disappointing.

Sincerely Faye Burnham