

Dear Ms Mason,

I am the facilitator of the Woodend Women's group and a few of us are victims of forced adoption. As such I feel able to offer criticism of a proposed amendment to the Bill.

I realize that the main purpose is to provide identifying information to natural parents, generally the natural mother. The proposed Contract Statement gives total control to the adopted child in terms of information and future meetings however conducted. The natural parents have no rights again. Children who were adopted in the State of Victoria are mostly between 25 and 60 years of age. As mature people, contact between adults can be a private affair. The State has intervened far too much in the lives of these people. The proposed Contract Statement requirement to be renewed every five years has the capacity to make criminals of natural parents if they breach the terms of the statement.

Yours Faithfully

Linda Dare