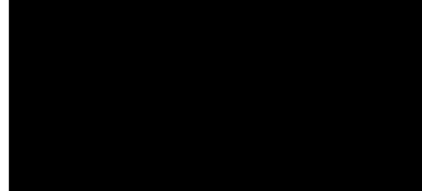


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12 Aug. 2016

Dear Ms. Rechter,

I wish to make a few points towards the Adoptions Review. I am an adoptee, I found my birth mother in 1985, we kept in touch and she died in 2010. I do not know who my birth father is.

## Birth Certificates

I attended the State Government apology for Forced Adoptions a few years ago adoptees were promised a new integrated Birth Certificate that would represent the true nature of their birth and include names and details of both birth and adopted parents.

I recently applied for a new Birth Certificate (redacted) I am disappointed because this certificate is dishonest. On the back of this certificate is the so-called history of my birth. The history does not include my birth name nor the names of all my parents

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Firstly I was not named Ellen Dorothy Biggs at birth. I was named Hellen Stewart which is the name my birth mother gave me. I would trust that this Adoption Review would address this injustice and ask the politicians to keep their pledge to adoptees.

## Medical Issues

My birth mother died on 22 June 2010. Because she had a Coroner's Report into her cause of death I was able to apply for a copy of the Report which I received via the Warrnambool Coroner's Office. The report revealed that my birth mother had had bowel cancer, kidney cancer and heart disease. None of these conditions I knew about. I am not entitled to medical information from her G.P. I believe this is unfair as I am her only child. There is also an

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inherited Down's Syndrome condition in our birth family, Fragile X.

If medical information is made available then adoptees receive comfort and security and can plan with their GPs. I am now on a colonoscopy regime as my birth aunt also had bowel cancer. My birth uncle, birth aunt and birth mother had heart disease. Fortunately I have found this information myself. Not every adoptee can achieve this.

Last time I wrote to an Adoption Review a Social Worker responded saying I was angry. I felt depressed and insulted. I am not angry I was then and still am disillusioned. Of course this Review was prior to the apology. I have received grief counselling as a result of the apology which has been very helpful.

Thank you

Yours truly Ella Dorothy  
Hale Stewart Bignall