

Fri 13/06/2008 8:49 AM

Hi Lisa,

lovely to hear from you. I too had my child, a daughter, forcibly taken whilst heavily drugged and kept prisoner in Crown St Women's Hospital in 1969, a little earlier than you, but at a very busy time for the adoption industry. I agree with you the Furness campaign is a sickening reminder of what happens when certain people want to change laws and make baby taking acceptable. They have been running what I term, a smoke and mirrors campaign, 'save the orphans' - when it really is about promoting the adoption of newborns again both abroad and domestically. Furness adopted domestically as she has a green card and she adopted two American babies, born to poor mothers. She and Jackman waited at the foot of the bed to take their prizes right at the birth, with Jackman cutting the cord. The mother of their oldest adopted child, committed suicide, when, as I read, the Jackman's reduced or stopped the mother's access.

I applaud anyone who wants to raise the awareness of the inherent risks in adoption. The life-long grief of the mother is just the start, and the whole litany of problems adoptees suffer from. As you have asked I can put you on my email list, which I have used to update everyone about the pro adoption campaign and also circulate mother's emails.

Contacting one's Attorney General is not that difficult. You will see from the emails that one can access politicians if a strong campaign is run. Furness has been their 'talking head' but behind that she has campaigned strongly with loads of support from Ricky Brisson and other adoptive parent groups.

We had a lot of media attention through the 1990s and it was my MP here in Sydney that fought for an Inquiry into past practices in adoption in 1997-1998. The Inquiry run for 2 years 1998-2000 and was successful in that it supported mother's claims about having their children taken unlawfully and unethically.

The way to get 'our side' heard is to start writing to the relevant pollys - they are named in the emails. I have just finished editing a book. It is an anthology of mother's stories, contextualised by a brief historical overview, that describes what our rights were and the laws that were supposed to protect us. The book is just now being printed and I intend to hold a Forum to launch it. I am going to use the publicity to start to call attention to our issues and ask for a formal apology from the Govt. I think that is a first step. Then we will get the ear of the pollys, like the Indigenous mothers have done..

I believe we have to unite and that mothers and adoptees must speak out, I don't know though if there are any adoptive parents who would, one never knows. Many mothers have spoken out for decades, but up until we campaigned strongly in the late 1990s, nobody listened.

Anyway look forward to hearing from you re the email list. And if you need to talk to me you can ring me on one of my tel. nos.

kind regards
Chris