

Forced Adoption Redress Scheme – Redress for Children

Ms JOHNSTON question to ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Tasmania's forced adoption redress scheme covers mothers whose babies were forcibly removed but excludes the children themselves, now adults, who carry the lifelong trauma of that separation. I've been contacted by a constituent, a forced adopted person born in Launceston in 1977, who has been unable to get an explanation from your department as to why forced adopted people are excluded and said they received essentially a form letter from you. Your own department points to Western Australian parliamentary reporters informing this scheme's design but that report, recommendation 20, explicitly proposes a redress scheme covering mothers, forcibly removed children and, in some cases, fathers. So, why has Tasmania departed from the very recommendation it says informed this scheme and will you provide my constituent and the wider forced adoption community with a substantive answer rather than a form letter?