

Dear Fellow Birth Parents ,

Movement for An Adoption Apology (MAA)

We three birth mothers (all members of NPN or NORCAP or both) have formed a movement aimed at asking the government to make an apology to birth parents for the adoption practices which took place in this country, between the 1940s and 1970s; these practices, as you know, meant that many babies were given for adoption because single mothers were persuaded by social workers, church and private adoption agencies, that they had little option but to relinquish their babies to married couples who wanted to adopt. We know that hundreds of mothers -in particular - have been scarred by their action and that many have not survived or been able to meet, or even have news of the welfare of, their lost children.

We have been inspired by the unanimous agreement made in the West Australian Parliament on 19th October 2010 to a motion entitled:

REMOVAL OF CHILDREN FROM UNMARRIED MOTHERS – APOLOGY.

This momentous decision was reached as a result of a similar movement to our own, established by Evelyn Robinson (whose work many of you will already know), and began in much the same way as our movement today. If you wish to read the entire debate, we will forward it to you online.

We have each made contact with our MPs and one positive outcome is that we have had two meetings with Helen's MP, who has shown interest in our case and now wishes to learn more about past practices (which were much the same as those in Canada and Australia) She is contemplating applying for an adjournment debate in our Parliament with a view to gathering interest amongst other MPs of all parties. Jean and Veronica's MPs have also replied to them and shown an interest.

We are writing to ask you whether you would join our movement so that we can demonstrate to the government through our MPs, that the call for an apology is coming from birth mothers all over the country. We know this to be the case from the many accounts which have been sent to AAA Norcap and NPN over the last thirty years. We will of course ensure the privacy of any of you who wish to add your names to the number but would prefer to remain anonymous. Equally well we ask you to keep our email addresses fully confidential. Email replies should be sent to: maahhelen@gmail.com

We don't know at what rate our movement is going to develop but we hope to receive many supportive replies. Please tell us if you think you would like to help us in any way, especially if you are on email.

Yours sincerely,

Jean Robertson-Molloy
Veronica Smith
Helen Tomkins
(founder members of MAA)

NORCAP disclaimer: The views expressed on our appeals page are not necessarily the views held by NORCAP.