

Lily Woodward

- Told as long as I can remember by my mum that we had Aboriginal Heritage and subsequently have identified as this and my children.
- Rough childhood of neglect and memories of being touched, sexualized and abused, various males in my mothers life.
- Around 12/13 years – constantly running away.
- Aged 13 – mum relinquished rights to CP. Originally lived with Grandmother, then Aunty (who gave up on me) then moved to Resi Care.
- Aged 14 (Sept 2012) Met ██████ (a 24 year old man), in Resi-care.
- Aged 14 (March 2013) – Became pregnant to ██████ Had three children to him. (█████ ██████ ██████ ██████████)
- No support during my childhood by Child Protection to help me understand what is happening to me.
- Many years of Domestic violence with ██████ and being controlled, raped and abused.
- In 2020 The ██████ and I moved to a shelter, and then a week later Child Protection removed the ██████ from my care for investigation. Was meant to be a 1-week order. However, the ██████ were never returned, as they said it was due to my Mental Health.
- Been fighting since 2020 to get my three older ██████ back. Two oldest are currently residing with my mum in Victoria, my youngest with an Aunty in Qld.
- Child Protection have given no support in returning my children to me and have not even ensured there has been a relationship with them.
  - ██████ is the last time I saw ██████ ██████ was 6 months when taken, and would be 3 years old now. I am meant to have scheduled phone calls fortnightly, but this doesn't happen as scheduled as the 'worker' is always sick every time.
  - ██████ is the last time I last saw. I am told ██████ doesn't want to see me as ██████ is going to take ██████ away' by the CP. This is disputed since my recent phone call when ██████ phoned me.
  - ██████ - One hour access once a month, but CP changed the plan and the dates will change. At this time am unaware of what the schedule will be
- 2022 – 4<sup>th</sup> ██████ ██████ born with new partner. ██████ registered as Aboriginal on birth certificate.
- Recently – email from Child Protection regarding a number of things, one of them asking me to STOP identifying as Aboriginal, as mum is now changing her story.
  - Replied stating I will continue to identify with my Aboriginality, as it is my identity and what I have known all my life. Also put in a request in the email to CP to seek VACCA to complete a finding family referral.
  - CP sent a separate email a couple of days later; they've transferred your case to CAFS Ballarat.
- On the weekend of 29 July, ██████ rang me (we haven't spoken since Feb 2020). ██████ was happy, and was sad that ██████ hadn't been able to talk to me in so long. ██████ also sent me many text messages afterwards showing how happy ██████ was.

I would like someone to contact me so I can explain in more detail my story.