

Yoorook Justice Commission

This submission will only relate to the immediate problem that I am experiencing in relation to our family. I could write a book on the trauma, abuse and injustices that this family has encountered and through no fault of their own except being members of the Aboriginal race and the trauma that's intruded into their lives since birth.

This submission relates to the [REDACTED] family who are all second-generation members of the Stolen-Generations, their [REDACTED] [REDACTED] were removed from the care of their loving [REDACTED] [REDACTED] from Lake Tyers Mission

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED] died on 02 May 1964 in South Silvan, Victoria, Australia and was buried 08 May 1964 in Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Springvale, Victoria, Australia. [REDACTED] remained in an unmarked grave and was buried under the wrong surname of [REDACTED] for some 36 years. On discovering this I notified The Southern Metropolitan Cemeteries Trust administrators and had [REDACTED] surname changed to [REDACTED] and notified the Victorian Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages Victoria and had [REDACTED] death certificate corrected and reissued.

After year's of fighting, I was finally able to get a remembrance plaque placed on her grave. This happened on the 30th June, 2018, on my wife's birthday.

[REDACTED] had [REDACTED] children all born in the Royal Women's Hospital Carlton, Victoria. [REDACTED] is the only child that [REDACTED] was able to take home and nurture. The remaining [REDACTED] children were removed from [REDACTED] custody and made State Wards whilst they were still in hospital. Authorities made a concerted effort to ensure that [REDACTED] had no contact with her children after their removal.

Our family has been torn apart over the last six months through the death of [REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

These members of my family had compromised health for approximately the previous 10 years prior to their deaths and died young as a result of the Stolen-Generations and Intergenerational trauma that they lived with since birth.

I had to sit there and watch this trauma suck the life out of my little bitty pretty one, my soul mate, [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

[REDACTED] deaths followed the same pattern as [REDACTED]

I have handled the funeral and burial arrangements for [REDACTED] [REDACTED] and am now [REDACTED] in accordance with her wishes.

I've got a problem that must be affecting a lot of Koorie families who have family members who are members of the Stolen-Generations. I need a certificate from the Registry of Births, Deaths & Marriages Victoria that shows [REDACTED] family as a family unit. Births, Deaths & Marriages don't have any document that shows this family as a family unit, hence denying the existence of this family.

I tried to get Births, Deaths & Marriages to reissue [REDACTED] [REDACTED] death certificate, showing her [REDACTED] children and their ages at the time of her death. But because [REDACTED] were adopted, they refuse to show these children on [REDACTED] death certificate.

This is a denial of human rights and completes the intent and philosophy behind the Stolen Generations. They accomplish this through Section 43 of the BDMR Act 1996, using the requirements of the Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2019 (the BDMR) section 9 (1)(I) which prevents adopted children from being shown/added to the natural mother's death certificate.

I want the children of the Stolen Generations to be exempt from Section 43 of the BDMR Act 1996, and Births, Deaths and Marriages Registration Regulation 2019 (the BDMR) section 9 (1)(I) so that members of the Stolen Generations can be included on their natural mother's death certificate.

This has created a legal problem for me in [REDACTED] [REDACTED] as there no document verifying the relationships between the siblings or even acknowledging that they are siblings.

Yet when I completed [REDACTED] death registration, they wanted me to list any adopted siblings. Some double standards here.

I consider the present situation to be a breach of human rights and social justice and allows for the fulfilment of the aims of the Governments Stolen Generations policy.

It is essential that members of the Stolen Generations be exempt from these sections of the act so that Koorie family can be shown as a family unit and to stop the legal bind that these families can find themselves in as I am experiencing now.