

Dr. Katrina Stratton

Member for Nedlands

The Hon. Peter Foster MLC
Chair, Environment and Public Affairs Committee
By Email

15 December 2022

Dear Peter,

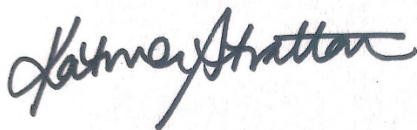
I write in regard to the e-Petition tabled November 15 2022 “Inquiry into past adoption policies and practices”. I understand the Principal Petitioner has provided a comprehensive overview past practices, the people impacted, and the kinds of impacts endured. I have met the Principal Petitioner and others over the course of the last year: I admire and acknowledge their tenacity and resilience in wanting to create change through their petition.

Western Australia was the first jurisdiction to apologise to children and parents and others for the illegal removal of newborns from their mothers (usually single and/or unwed women). Having been in the Public Gallery of the WA Legislative Assembly when an apology was made to survivors of institutional childhood sexual abuse, I have seen how powerful and meaningful an apology can be. I was there as a Board Member of Tuart Place, and our participants were moved by the apology, expressing that their experiences had been seen, heard and validated.

An inquiry moves beyond recognition, while providing that too, to both understand and prevent similar practices happening again. Other Australian jurisdictions, most recently Victoria, have undertaken inquiries into the systems that led to the practices of forced adoption. WA would therefore be in line with other states in undertaking an inquiry.

An inquiry would allow survivors and other stakeholders the opportunity to share their lived experience, and their experiences be heard and validated, with the possibility for accountability and transparency from all involved. An inquiry would provide the state government with recommendations regarding legislation and policy changes to ensure such practices - and their enduring impacts – do not occur again.

Yours sincerely



Dr. Katrina Stratton MLA
Member for Nedlands
CC: The Hon Lorna Harper, MLC

Unit 1/160 Hampden Road Nedlands WA 6009
T: 9386 3064 E: Katrina.Stratton@mp.wa.gov.au
F: Dr Katrina Stratton MLA – Member for Nedlands

