

VANISH news bulletin

October 2012

Forced Adoption Practices Apology - Tasmania **Thursday, 18 October 2012 at 11.00am**

Premier Lara Giddings MP will deliver a formal apology on behalf of the Tasmanian community to mothers and fathers whose children were removed because of past forced adoption practices, and to people who were separated from their parents as infants as a result of those practices. The apology will be delivered in the Tasmanian Parliament from 11am on Thursday 18 October 2012. The apology will also be broadcast live online at www.parliament.tas.gov.au and DVD copies of the apology will be made available. You can get your copy by calling (03) 6270 5638.

If you have been affected by past adoption practices in Tasmania, support is available by contacting Relationships Australia on 1300 364 277 or Adoption Information Services on (03) 6233 2273

Adoptees Concert Performance - Melbourne **Sunday, 21 October 2012 at 7.00pm**

IDENTIFY – Adoptees Play for Change is an inaugural concert celebrating the voices of adoptees from across Australia performing their songs and stories through music and spoken word. The evening will kick off with an open mic session open to anyone who is adopted.

This is the first concert of its kind in Australia, giving voice to people with an adoption experience to explore and express their lifelong journey. What is myth and what is truth? Why are adoptees so reluctant to speak out? Adoptees Play for Change seeks to unveil some realities of adoption and give voice to talented, passionate individuals who seek to break the silence. Musical talent performing includes Genevieve Davis (The Glamma Rays), Justin Frew (Southend, Justin Frew & the Loose Intentions), and Vincent Rungo. **EVERYONE IS WELCOME** to attend this event. To buy your ticket or find out more go to www.adopteesplayforchange.com

10th Australian Adoption Conference - Melbourne **Monday, 22 and Tuesday, 23 October 2012**

Australian Adoption Conferences are held every four years and are hosted by the Australian States on a rotation basis. The Conference is an opportunity for adoption professionals from Australia and overseas, and for individuals and families affected by adoption and permanent care to meet to:

- discuss current legal, ethical and practice issues
- present accounts/testimonials of life journeys by those affected by adoption and permanent care
- share research and new understandings about adoption
- network and share information

10th Australian Adoption Conference - Melbourne (cont)

The conference in 2012 will:

- provide a forum to highlight adoption and permanent care services, trends and developments in local and overseas adoption and permanent care
- broaden the focus to include issues around the role of adoption and permanent care with children with special needs and children in out-of-home care

VANISH will be sharing its experience and insights on Day 1 by presenting a session entitled '**Reconnecting: reflection, rejection, reunion and the value of support groups**'

The Department of Human Services has provided an individual rate for attending one day \$165 and two days \$235. To register or find out more follow this link: <http://www.cvent.com/events/the-10th-australian-adoption-conference-2012/custom-38-be61deee6b08426f90d7aab3db030a11.aspx>

Forced Adoption Practices Apology - Victoria Thursday, 25 October 2012 at 11.30am

Premier Ted Baillieu and Minister Mary Wooldridge on behalf of the Victorian Government will formally apologise to the mothers, fathers, sons, daughters and families affected by past forced adoption practices that occurred in Victoria. The apology will be delivered in State Parliament from 11:30am on Thursday, 25 October 2012. People will be able to view a live internet broadcast of the apology at: www.parliament.vic.gov.au/video-and-audio/live-broadcasts.

To attend a live screening of the apology you can register your interest by contacting Robyn Gumley at the Department of Human Services by email at robyn.gumley@dhs.vic.gov.au or via telephone on 03 9096 7366.

The apology will also be made available on DVD, available through the contact details above.

**VANISH WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR EXTRA SUPPORT APPOINTMENTS
POST APOLOGY, FROM TUESDAY 30 OCTOBER**

**Our new address is:
1st Floor, 50 Howard Street, North Melbourne
(Tram 57 from Elizabeth Street)**

**Phone: 9328 8611 or 1300 826 474
Email: info@vanish.org.au**

Hours: Tuesday to Friday from 9am to 4.30pm

Book Launch - Bacchus Marsh Thursday, 1 November 2012 at 7.00pm

***The Impact of Adoption* by Gary Coles will be launched at the James Young Room at the Bacchus Marsh Library
RSVP: 5367 0922**

This Author event will follow the State Government's formal apology made to families adversely affected by past adoption practices in Victoria which will be broadcast on Thursday the 25th of October in State Parliament.

Gary Coles, drawing on his personal experience as a father of a child lost to adoption, has been actively involved in research and with support groups.

- 2009-2011 Manager of VANISH Inc.
- Author of 3 books on the subject of adoption.
- Member of the Federal Attorney-General's Reference Group, assisting with the content of the national Apology, which arises from the recent Senate enquiry into 'Former forced adoption policies and practices.'

ABC Open presents – Separated – online gallery

As the Federal Government prepares an apology for the harm caused by past forced adoption, the ABC has established a new online photo gallery to show the human face of these policies and practices. It recognises the individual experiences of people who've been separated, and gives the Australian community a chance to share their stories.

If you have been separated from your child or your mother by these policies, you're invited to add your photo and story to the gallery. You do not have to provide names if you prefer. For more background information or to submit your contribution go to <https://open.abc.net.au/projects/separated>

Other News

VALE David Paton of York, WA passed away on the 14 September 2012. David's wife Roma thanked VANISH sincerely for the support they provided him over the last few years.

Australian genealogist Joyce RYERSON died 30 August 2012, aged 95

Joyce Ryerson, from 1986 -1998, took her Herald every morning, cut out the requisite columns, and then hoarded them in her laundry. Since then a group of volunteers with painstaking precision indexed these, including a group of VANISH volunteers coordinated by Mary Rawson since 2006. Volunteers continue to index death and probate notices which appear in 118 current Australian newspapers; countless hours are spent combing through personal notices taking each fragment of information about a person, converting the newspaper notices into data and cataloguing it on the web.

The Ryerson Index is a free online invaluable resource used by VANISH for tracing families.

To find out more news and events or to find links to apologies that have occurred in other states go to <http://www.vanish.org.au>

SUPPORT GROUPS FOR THE REMAINDER OF THE YEAR:

Mixed Support Group:

**2nd Tuesday of the month
13 November and 11 December 2012**

Adopted Persons Support Group:

**4th Tuesday of the month
23 October and 27 November 2012**

Donor Conceived Persons Support Group:

Wednesday, 24 October 2012 (check for venue details)

MEMBERSHIP: If you wish to discontinue your membership please advise us through info@vanish.org.au subject: Membership

Thanks to Charlotte Smith for her contributions

Best wishes

Coleen Clare
Manager, VANISH

12 October 2012