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## Request for a meeting regarding our urgent call for a Royal Commission into Adoption and its lifelong impacts on Adoptees

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**From** Adoptee Rights Australia <admin@adopteerightsaustralia.org.au>

**Date** Fri 17/04/2026 1:19 PM

**To** gordon.reid.mp@aph.gov.au <gordon.reid.mp@aph.gov.au>

To The Honourable Dr Gordon Reid MP,  
Member for Robertson  
House of Representatives  
Parliament House  
CANBERRA ACT 2600

Dear Dr Reid,

Adoptee Rights Australia (ARA) Inc. is a not-for-profit organisation, a registered charity, and is led by lived/living experience volunteers. Formed in 2018, it is the peak body and national advocacy association raising awareness of systemic inequity in adoption and providing support for adopted persons in Australia. ARA advocates for:

- the reform of adoption legislation, policy, and services across every Australian jurisdiction so that the human rights of adopted people are restored and protected,
- calling for the examination of issues around the lived/living experience of adoption in Australia, and
- that any reform to adoption legislation, policy, and practices must be evidence-based.

We write to you today on behalf of our community who continue to live with the profound and unresolved consequences of Australia's adoption policies and practices.

Adoptee Rights Australia calls on the Australian Government to establish a Royal Commission into adoption, examining the systemic harm inflicted by both historical and contemporary legislation, policies, and practices by governments and non-government institutions.

This is an issue of National significance.

Evidence from adoptees demonstrates systemic, lifelong harms resulting from:

- identity alteration and falsification
- coercion and lack of informed consent
- restricted access to records
- ongoing physical, psychological, and social impacts
- widespread illegal and unethical practices

Existing mechanisms including the recommendation made by the Senate Community Affairs References Committee's 2012 Inquiry into the Commonwealth Contribution to Former Forced

Adoption Policies and Practices and several state government inquiries and internal reviews — have failed to address these harms in a comprehensive, trauma-informed, and accountable manner. The lifelong impacts of adoption and the pervading unlawful practices have never been adequately investigated.

Fourteen years on, the majority of the 20 Recommendations made by the Senate Inquiry still have not been implemented. In fact, the harms have multiplied:

- Historical documentation projects have been quietly decommissioned,
- Public exhibitions have been dismantled,
- References to the apology have been removed from government websites,
- Record-keeping remains inconsistent, with files still missing or destroyed,
- Bureaucratic obstacles continue to block adoptees' lawful access to their original identities, medical histories and family information,
- Specialist, trauma-informed support services remain fragmented and underfunded,
- Lack of awareness about the lifelong impacts of adoption amongst government employees and no trauma-informed training of staff,
- No public education on the history of adoption and its lifelong impacts,
- Government departments and non-government institutions have not been made accountable for the crimes that were committed removing children from their mothers,
- Lived/living experience groups are largely excluded from consultation and decision making - both at a Federal and State level.

The result is that the very harms the Senate Inquiry sought to address — lifelong grief, identity trauma, mental and physical health crises, and intergenerational damage — persist unabated.

We ask that you raise this matter in the Parliament, support any motion calling for a Royal Commission, and champion the rights of adoptees in your electorate and beyond. It is the only mechanism capable of addressing the systemic, lifelong, and intergenerational harm of adoption that continues to profoundly affect hundreds of thousands of Australians today.

Adoptee Rights Australia Inc. is ready to brief you at any time and to facilitate direct testimony from affected adoptees.

We would welcome an opportunity for a Zoom meeting to discuss this further with you.

Thank you for your time and for considering this urgent request.

Kind Regards,

Peter Capomolla Moore

***President***

**Adoptee Rights Australia (ARA) Inc.**

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# Adoptee Rights **Australia**

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