Forced Adoptions – Support for Adoptees

Dr WOODRUFF question to MINISTER for JUSTICE, CORRECTIONS and REHABILITATION

A petition that will be tabled today on behalf of babies who were taken from their mothers and fathers through forced adoption calls on you to recognise that forced adoptions in Tasmania did not just happen to only one person - they happened to a mother and her baby. Many adult adoptees continue to live with lifelong impacts, including loss of identity, separation from biological family and lack of access to family. As forced adoption mothers did, adult forced adoptees deserve recognition, an apology and support for the harms they received because of illegal removal from their family. They also desperately need help to access records search and reunion support, and access to family medical history. Minister, will you honour their request to meet with them and discuss their very reasonable asks for an apology, trauma-informed counselling, practical support to access birth and medical records, and a fair redress, including appropriate financial redress for lifelong harms caused because of forced adoption?