What is forced adoption?

Forced adoption refers to past adoption practices where children were removed from their parents without informed consent, including through pressure, coercion and other unethical practices.

In Australia, there were approximately 150,000 adoptions during the peak period of 1951-1971.

The impacts of forced adoption can be profound and lifelong, affecting identity, relationships, connection and emotional wellbeing.

A National Apology in 2013, was made by the Prime Minister to those affected by forced adoption practices.

Following the National Apology, Relationships Australia Tasmania received funding to provide the Forced Adoption Support Service (FASS) to those in Tasmania affected by forced adoption.

Further information on the National Apology can be found at Department of Social Services website.

www.dss.gov.au

Our Locations

Hobart
20 Clare Street
New Town
Tas 7008

Devonport
68 North Fenton Street
Devonport
Tas 7310

Launceston
6 Paterson Street
Launceston
Tas 7250

Not near a centre?
Most services are available via phone or video and some are available via outreach.

Call our friendly team to make a booking.

1300 364 277

For interstate callers please use:

(03) 6279 5000

tas.relationships.org.au

adultsupportservices@reltas.com.au

Independent / Inclusive / Non-Religious / Confidential

Forced Adoption Support Services

Together we'll find a way



Forced Adoption Support Services

The Forced Adoption Support Service (FASS) provides specialist support to people affected by past forced adoption practices, including mothers, fathers, adopted people and other family members.

The service provides trauma-informed, individualised support and helps people access counselling, information, records and family tracing, peer support and other services according to their needs.

Professional and confidential support

Our professional counsellors provide specialist, confidential support to people affected by forced adoption.

Support is tailored to each person's needs and may include working through experiences of grief and loss, trauma, anger, rejection, identity, relationships and emotional wellbeing.

FASS provides:

- Specialist counselling and support
- Information about forced adoption
- Assistance to access records
- Support with family search and reunion
- Peer support groups in Hobart and Devonport
- Referral and connection to other relevant services and supports

FASS is complemented by access to individual or phone counselling as required.

Counselling

Counselling provides a safe and supportive space to explore the impacts of forced adoption and the issues that are important to you.

Support is tailored to your individual needs and can be provided over the short or longer term.

Peer support

Peer support groups provide a safe and confidential space for people affected by past forced adoption practices to connect with others who have had similar experiences and a shared understanding of the impacts.

Groups are held in Hobart and Devonport and provide an opportunity to share experiences, knowledge and support with others, at your own pace and in a way that feels comfortable for you.

Anyone affected by past adoption practices are welcome to attend.

A safe and confidential space to connect, share experiences and find support with others who understand.

Australian Government

This program is funded by the Australian Government, Department of Social Services.