

Insights into adoption separation

This seminar is a valuable opportunity for people personally affected by adoption, and for service providers who work with, or are interested in, adoption related issues.

Presented by Evelyn Robinson, Stephen Ferguson and Gary Coles.

Evelyn, Gary and Stephen will look at the impact that adoption separation has had on their lives and on the lives of others.

Evelyn and Stephen are a mother and son who were separated by adoption, because Evelyn was persuaded, when she was young and single, that it would be in Stephen's best interests for him to be adopted. They were reunited when he was 21.

Gary is the father of a child from whom he was separated by adoption. Gary has not yet been reunited with his son. All three speakers have explored the impact of adoption separation on their lives, as well as its impact on society as a whole.

Evelyn is a published author. Her first book, *Adoption and Loss – The Hidden Grief* tells of her unplanned teenage pregnancy and its aftermath, and examines the losses experienced by all those affected by adoption. In her second book, *Adoption and Recovery – Solving the Mystery of Reunion*, Evelyn concentrates on understanding the challenges and opportunities involved in adoption search and reunion.

Stephen was born and adopted in 1970 and now teaches at a remote Aboriginal community in the Northern Territory. Stephen will describe his experience of growing up adopted, his search for and reunion with his mother, his search for his father and the legal outcomes of that search, his personal experience of being a sperm donor and his involvement in the fight for access to information for donor conceived children.

Gary's book, *Ever After – Fathers and the Impact of Adoption*, provides an insider's view of men who have lost children to adoption. Little has been previously written about adoption from a birth father's perspective and this book provides insights for all those affected by adoption, particularly birth fathers. Gary has also written another book, *Transparent – Seeing Through the Legacy of Adoption*, which talks about the benefits of the family of origin working collaboratively to mend the wounds caused by their separation.



Date and time

Wednesday October 11, from 1 pm to 5 pm.

Venue

Relationships Australia (SA), 49a Orsmond Street, Hindmarsh 5007.

Bookings and RSVP

Please book by October 7 by calling Nikki or Sandi on (08) 8245 8100 or emailing n.hartmann@rasa.org.au or s.petersen@rasa.org.au.

Relationships Australia
SOUTH AUSTRALIA

The Australian Institute of Social Relations is a division of Relationships Australia (SA)
This seminar brought to you by Post Adoption Support Services, a program of Relationships Australia (SA)