

Welcome to the unveiling of

# CHERISHED

MOTHER AND CHILD MEMORIAL

*“The argument that this is how it was done back then holds little sway. Denial is shorthand for the abdication of responsibility.”*

**Former Senator Andrew Murray**  
August 2004

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**Friday 17 March, 2017 from 11am**  
at Victoria Park, Marley Street, Sale

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Officially unveiled by the  
**Hon Darren Chester MP**  
Federal Member for Gippsland

On behalf of Independent Regional Mothers to commemorate Prime Minister Julia Gillard’s National Parliamentary Apology on 21 March 2013 and Victorian Premier Ted Baillieu and Deputy Premier Peter Ryan’s Parliamentary apologies on 25 October 2012.

***“You were and are not to blame,  
it was not your fault.”***

SCULPTURED BY ANDREW POPPLETON  
CAST BY MERIDIAN SCULPTURES

# Independent Regional Mothers of Victoria

## Valuing Truth, Diversity and Equity for Women

### OUR VISION

To engage with the community, service providers and Government to promote and enhance education on the truth recorded in the Commonwealth Senate Inquiry and Report (29/2/2012) and National and Victorian Parliamentary Apologies - validating motherhood (late 1950's-mid 1970's) when many mothers suffered medical sexual crimes during pregnancy, obstetric crimes when their newborn babies were illegally abducted, stolen, kidnapped (Commonwealth Government definition) during the birthing process or a short time thereafter by medical professionals employed in Government run public hospitals - criminal injustices.

Enhance the wellbeing of women who are still suffering such lifetime pain and sorrow and to bring truth to their sons and/or daughters.

### OUR VALUES

Ethical Practices - Truth  
Inclusion and Equity  
Support Services

## Mother and Child

*My womb was our safe haven,  
Sadly I could not protect us during our illegal separation at birth,  
Planned by others for another's gain.*

*They denied me the beating of your little heart against mine,  
They denied me your first breath and the feeling of  
your warm perfect little fingers,  
The right to count your toes.*

*My breasts denied the right to nourish you,  
My eyes to watch you grow,  
My legs to run and play with you,  
My arms to hold you close,  
My face to see your smiling eyes.*

*But they failed to see our invisible cord attached to my  
heart that only you and I share.*

*Nobody can ever break our connection as we are joined by our  
invisible cord, unbreakable by a man's plan to separate us.*

*I am your Mother,  
You are my child and  
my love is yours always,  
Your heart broken mother.*

*Composed by Brenda Coughlan (8 June, 2003) for all mothers and newborn babies  
illegally and unlawfully separated at birth, around the world.*

*Nominated for International Poet of the Year (8 June, 2003)  
Awarded International Poetry Award*