Do you think that the Canadian government should conduct a similar study to the one you lead in Australia on past adoption practices?
Yes, but only if it will link to refinement of the services that can be offered to meet those needs - such as the training that Australia implemented for health and mental health professionals (see below).

What would the parameters of the study look like?
I would recommend replicating the Australian study would be most useful, and would provide an interesting international comparison if the same methodology was employed.

Should it look at the past but also inform current practices for adoptions?
This would inevitably happen - as the qualitative elements of the Australian study (interviews, focus groups, and open-ended survey responses) had a very strong theme around the implications for current policies and practices.

Also letting you know I provided the following information as an addendum to the transcript:

I referred to the training provided by the Australian Psychological Society (APS), funded by the Commonwealth Department of Health.
Information about it can be found here: https://www.psychology.org.au/Event/16082?view=true

I noted that in her testimony, Senator Siewert incorrectly referred to it as the Australian Psychological Association (not Society), and said it was training for psychologists. But its targeted at a wide range of health and mental health professionals, not just psychologists.

Yesterday was the 5th Anniversary of the Australian National Apology. Professor Mushin, who chaired the National Apology Implementation working group noted yesterday in a speech at one of the commemoration events that so far, 2,678 people have undertaken the training for health professionals.

There were a number of tweets using the handle #ForcedAdoption, or my twitter handle @HigginsDaryl if you wish to look them up on Twitter. I’ve copied a few here for you:

Concerns about the problems of disconnection from culture are consistent with the message from research on #ForcedAdoption more broadly: we need to learn from our past mistakes. Let’s not do things for which we will need to have future apologies.

Daryl Higgins added,

NIT @NatIndigTimes
‘Adoption has created enormous problems’: peak kids body. @SNAICC @June_Oscar @ABCIndigenous @SeanGordon5 https://nit.com.au/adoptions-threaten-culture-peak-body/ … 2:42 PM - 22 Mar 2018
Prof Mushin questions whether we should have adoption or surrogacy at all, given the wrongs from the past #ForcedAdoption and the potential for exploitation & denying children’s rights to identity: not proprietary interests of would-be parents.

Daryl Higgins added,
Thursday 22nd March 2018

4pm afternoon tea
4.30 Proceedings:
Welcome from VANISH - Charlotte Smith, Manager
Welcome from ARMS - Jo Fraser, Secretary
Video address by Former Prime Minister Julia Gillard AC
Charlotte Smith, Manager, VANISH  The Apology and It’s Outcomes
Marie Meggit, Founder, ARMS  Looking back, Looking Forward
Adjunct Professor Hon Nahum Mushin National Apology for Forced Adoptions – Five Years On.
Response to Keynote
Thanks and Close
Daryl Higgins @HigginsDaryl
Prof Nahum Mushin giving inspiring address at #ForcedAdoption 5th anniversary apology.
11:40 PM - 21 Mar 2018
0 replies 0 retweets 0 likes


Daryl Higgins added,

The Centre @CFECFW
We are at the Fifth Anniversary of the National Apology for Forced Adoptions this afternoon, hosted by VANISH and ARMS
Show this thread
11:08 PM - 21 Mar 2018

Today is the fifth anniversary of the National Apology for #ForcedAdoption. This apology acknowledged the unjust and often illegal acts used to coerce Mothers to give up babies for adoption as well as the ongoing mental suffering and life… http://www.nt.relationships.org.au/

6:15 PM - 20 Mar 2018

Important to see how current policy on adoption, child protection and family welfare doesn’t repeat mistakes of the past. See: https://aifs.gov.au/our-work/research-expertise/past-adoption-and-forced-family-separation/families-policy-and-law/4-past-adoption-practices-key-messages-service-delivery …

Daryl Higgins added,

The Centre @CFECFW
We are at the Fifth Anniversary of the National Apology for Forced Adoptions this afternoon, hosted by VANISH and ARMS
Show this thread
10:54 PM - 21 Mar 2018