

Past Forced Adoptions  
Commemorative Public Artwork

# The Space Between

“With this commemorative artwork we bring into the public domain the different voices of those who were adopted as children and who are now adults, the mothers, the fathers, siblings, grandparents and grandchildren.

This special piece, located in this peaceful setting, provides a place for people who have been affected by adoption to visit, to reflect and to remember. It is we hope a place where people can talk about their experiences with others, where reflection can occur and where there is a sense of belonging and shared experience with others who have been affected by adoption practices.

It is also a place of education, where the public gaze can be drawn and thinking can lead to increased understanding.

Finally, it is also a place of public acknowledgement. Of bringing out into the open that which for so many years was silenced. These two pieces of granite, the sitting stone and the message stones, all make a strong statement, their presence cannot be denied as they stand up against the shaming, ostracism and silencing of the past.”

*Judith Cross Former CEO relationships Australia South Australia*

## Unveiling of The Space Between

This Commemorative public Artwork is dedicated to all those affected by past forced adoption policies and practices.

The Premier of South Australia, the Hon. Jay Weatherill unveiled 'The Space Between' on 14 July 2016 followed by speeches from the Hon. Dr Susan Close, Minister for Education and Child Development, and Judith Cross, CEO of Relationships Australia South Australia.

Liz Hein and Melinda Rackham, both of whom are directly impacted by these practices, represented the Past Forced Adoption community. Liz and Melinda gave moving speeches about the significance of a memorial such as this, and how it would help to break the silences of the past.

The artwork was funded by the Government of South Australia, Department for Education and Child Development, with extra funding from Arts South Australia. Relationships Australia South Australia's Post Adoption Support Services coordinated the project, along with a steering committee that included community members. Deb Jones and Christine Chowla (CHEB Art), were the selected artists that the committee felt best responded to the complex artists brief. Their design was of a large granite block that had been divided into two, to symbolise the separation of those affected by past adoption practices. There is also a large boulder beside the art work which is an ideal place for sitting and contemplation, and scattered on the ground around the boulder are message stones reflecting the feelings and emotions that adoption separation brings.



*This artwork is for all those whose lives  
have been profoundly affected by adoption separation practices –  
for the loss suffered by many,  
for the ongoing grief and pain experienced  
by Mothers who lost their children,  
and for Adoptees who lost their identity, heritage and family.*

This Commemorative Public Artwork is situated on the southern bank of the River Torrens near the University of Adelaide footbridge. Relationships Australia South Australia CEO Judith Cross stated 'This artwork is a place of public acknowledgement and of bringing out into the open that which for so many years, was silenced.'

After the formal unveiling of 'The Space Between,' Premier Weatherill led the assembly in scattering rose petals as an act of remembrance around the artwork and he stated 'I am touched and honoured to open this memorial that literally sets in stone our apology and awareness of the lifelong impact of forced adoption.'

The Commemorative Public Artwork is located near the University Footbridge along the River Torrens

Corner of Victoria Road & Frome Road, Adelaide, SA 5000

