



**TRANSCRIPT OF INTERVIEW WITH DN, THE MOTHER OF A CHILD IN CARE**

- DN I'm mum. She's number 7 and she's premature and so I was worried and the welfare was doing the wrong thing to me. So they take her away from me and so my family meeting we have to meet together with the family meetings so not the welfare didn't tell me the full story of what my daughter's going to take away from me and so I was trying to tell them what's we can have a meeting with them. A family meeting. So.
- INTERVIEWER With the welfare?
- DN With the welfare. So father's side, mother's side. But nah they don't, didn't like to, they didn't want to stay with the family meeting. Only the short time and it didn't look to tell me what to say but nah they were just jump in the car and just took off. And so I didn't know what my daughter, my daughter's, I thought was my daughter would go with her brother, and so I thought was my daughter will take her back to the other side with my son but they went straight up to the airport and I didn't know and only my son and our partner went there with them and she got up and she started to cry maybe so my son was telling me the story about it and she started to cry and she looked back to the car and she thought was, "where's my mum" and she called my name, "where's my mum", and the welfare came and she was holding with my son short, she was holding tight and so the welfare came. And she pulled her with her two hands and just, and she was crying. So just put her on the plane and she was still crying. And she was still crying, still crying on the plane. "Where's my mum", she was saying and her brother was starting to cry. My son, started to cry and they walked from and they dropped them here. All her brothers and sisters are saying where's [name] Gone to Darwin with the welfare and they started to cry. Start to cry. They thought the community and this community's next neighbour, next neighbour my brother or my sister, they thought was someone was pass away. But only for [name] they cry and my sister came back from school, my 2 sister.
- INTERVIEWER And what does your sister do at the school?
- DN She's a team leader my sister. And my other sister she's a working at the clinic and my other sister working at the school. My brother working.
- INTERVIEWER So you have very strong brothers and sisters that will work hard in the community.
- DN Yeah we working hard at the community. So we're all working hard here at the community. Our brothers, our uncle and our mother, my sister. We're all working. We don't sit down here. We used to work every morning from 9:30 to 5, 4. Like me I got up early. Woke up at 6pm. All the cousin from my brother all working. They all work.
- INTERVIEWER Now you were saying that you had a family meeting. Did welfare come to that family meeting?

DN We didn't have meeting. Family meeting. They didn't like, they didn't like to have a family meeting. I thought, I was asking them to try to have a meeting.

INTERVIEWER With welfare and the family?

DN Yeah with welfare and the families but they didn't like.

INTERVIEWER At welfare? Do you know if any of your brothers and sisters were asked to take [name]?

DN Yeah they were talking to my sister only once and no more now. They don't talk to her or my daughter. They doing the wrong thing and we want to try and bring her back her to learn culture and the man business, woman business. Like, she wants to learn more about that, like, so like her brother wants to go into man business. She wants to know and she wants to do a culture. We've got strong culture here. In the community we've got culture. We've got culture. They always, our father always, is always they singing. Every night they used to go out every house you know. When the, like today there were dance, signing at top camp. They used to singing here because the man passed away at .. house they singing there. Our culture. That's our culture. [Name]'s culture.

INTERVIEWER Now you were also saying like when welfare, before welfare become involved she was premature. She was born early.

DN Yeah she was born early and the welfare didn't come then. So they didn't even look, so only myself was there. I was looking after her. The welfare didn't involve with me. Never. Only myself. That's my daughter. I was with her.

INTERVIEWER And you said there was a situation or something happened where she had a sore arm or a bad arm and there was, you took her to the clinic but you were saying that she's got arthritis. That's why she had the sore hand.

DN Yeah she had arthritis from when she was little

INTERVIEWER And did you know, did the welfare say anything about why they're taking your daughter away? Did they give you any reason or any explanation?

DN No. They didn't tell me.

INTERVIEWER It was only that she come back from the clinic and then welfare came. Is that right?

DN When they came, came back from the clinic and the welfare came and pick her up. She knew that car came down with those two welfare came here. So where's [Name]. They were saying. She hide. She ran away. She ran away and hide on the gutter. I always reminding her when she was hiding under gutter.

She doesn't want to go.

INTERVIEWER How old was [Name] when she was taken away?

DN 4 year old.

INTERVIEWER And how old now?

DN She's 15.

INTERVIEWER 15.

DN She's 15. She's getting big, long, very tall. Tall like, we can see in the photo. That photo she was in, she went for the trip with the foster care, carer. So she always, when she come here got up and she always staying I want to stay now. I want to say with you mum. What's wrong I always go back? I want to stay with you and she was playing around and the kids make them happy and when I asked them to take her to her grandma. I can't take her to her grandma. The welfare come here straight to the airport.

INTERVIEWER Have they brought [Name] back for visits to you?

DN Yeah visits. Last week she was here.

INTERVIEWER And how long was she here for?

DN Just for only 2 hours. 2 hours. I were telling her we were going to take her to her grandma.

INTERVIEWER While she's here you want to take her to family to visit family and keep that connection?

DN Yes. Only when she come here. 2 hour. Welfare won't going around. Come back here. Take to the airport. Straight to the airport. I want to try to take her to her grandma. When we visiting her grandma, where's, she call her Aboriginal name. Where she. Why can't you take my grandma here. Show me. I missing a lot. I missing it. So she, when we walked to visit her she can't you know. Can't like this my daughter and my daughter. She counting us you know. Taking them. She look at starting teeth.

INTERVIEWER Now you were also saying you went to court a couple of months ago and they say [Name]'s going to come back.

DN Yes, should be going back to the community they were saying to me.

INTERVIEWER And she still hasn't been brought back yet?

DN She didn't bring her back here. I'm still waiting.

INTERVIEWER And did welfare tell you that she'll be coming back home fulltime?

DN She was, they were telling me she'll be coming back for fulltime and she'll be staying here.

INTERVIEWER And that was a couple of months ago at court?

DN Yes at court.

INTERVIEWER And you're still waiting?

DN Still waiting. Still waiting. Still waiting.