

A FILM TO CHANGE A NATION

HOSTAGE OF THE STATE

My name is Dee McLachlan. Born in South Africa, I have lived and worked across four continents before eventually making Australia my home. For more than three decades I have told stories — directing documentaries, television series and nine feature films, including TriStar's *The Second Jungle Book* and the award-winning Australian thriller *The Jammed*.

Inspired by real accounts of sex trafficking in Melbourne, *The Jammed* exposed a hidden world many Australians did not want to believe existed — until they saw it.

The film demonstrated the extraordinary power of cinema to spark national conversation.

At the time, I believed
I had told the most
important story of
my career.
I was wrong.

INSPIRED BY DOCUMENTED ACCOUNTS
www.deemclachlan.com

— THE STORY I NEVER EXPECTED TO FIND —

In 2018, I met a mother whose child had been removed.
That encounter drew me into a hidden world I never expected to find.

Over the next seven years, I advocated for families, investigated cases, reviewed evidence, produced a video series, published hundreds of articles, and wrote a book. I witnessed children desperate to return home, parents destroyed. The deeper I went, the more convinced I became that this story needed to be told. So I wrote *HOSTAGE OF THE STATE* — a screenplay inspired by three of the families whose lives I witnessed being turned upside down. Their search for truth, justice and the children they love is the ultimate David and Goliath struggle: ordinary people confronting institutions of immense power.

What emerged was not a series of isolated tragedies, but a catastrophic pattern — a contemporary version of the Stolen Generation unfolding largely beyond public scrutiny.

A FILM WITH THE POWER TO CHANGE THE CONVERSATION

If this vision resonates with you, I invite you to learn more about the project, the research behind it, and the seven-year journey that led to its creation.

**A STORY I DID NOT DISCOVER.
A STORY I LIVED.**

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