



*29<sup>th</sup> July, 2009*

Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT 2600  
Australia

Dear Secretary of the Legal and Constitutional Committee,

In response to information I have received from the social justice oriented organization, 'A Just Australia' I appeal to you and all members of the Committee to take action to include into the Immigration Detention Reform Bill the following changes to our national policies in the area of refugee management.

- the detention values expressed in the Bill should apply to Christmas Island, not just mainland Australia. After all, most child asylum seekers are located on Christmas Island.

- the Immigration Detention Reform Bill should state that children should not be detained in any kind of secured immigration detention facility. Currently, children are being detained in facilities that are detention centres in all but name, under guard supervision and unable to come or go freely.

- the Immigration Detention Reform Bill should specify adequate measures for independent, timely review of a person's detention. The Bill in its present form does not include any review measures. Under present policy, a person can be detained for six months before any independent review (by the Ombudsman) and even then, the Ombudsman's recommendations are not enforceable. Six months is too long to be detained on the decision of just one DIAC official.

These changes are important so please make sure that they are adopted and enforced.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Kidner