

I am writing to express my concern and opposition to the Migration and Maritime Powers Legislation Amendment (Resolving the Asylum Legacy Caseload) Bill 2014 .

I am particularly concerned at the part of the Bill that fast-tracks an asylum seeker's application process. I have several years experience visiting detention centres and researching asylum claims and am basing my opinions on this experience.

I have observed that asylum seekers are often in a vulnerable psychological state when they reach Australia. Many of them have little or no understanding of the asylum process and have experienced persecution at the hands of their own government.

It is completely unrealistic to imagine that asylum seekers coming from countries with corrupt governments and/or dictatorships will be able to feel an immediate trust and confidence in the asylum seeker process in Australia. These asylum seekers need time to recover psychologically from their journeys, and they need time to realise that what they say to representatives of the Australian Government will be kept in confidence.

Many asylum seekers have to detail traumatic events as part of their asylum claim. These events may include rape (of both male and female asylum seekers), torture, and the death of loved ones. It is quite unrealistic to expect that newly-arrived asylum seekers would be able to talk openly about these kind of personal issues in a fast-track process. Again, it takes time for asylum seekers to realise that they can trust the legal system in Australia.

For these reasons, I am opposed to the fast-track measures included in this Bill.

Yours Sincerely

Emma Corcoran