

**Submission to the Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee**

**Inquiry into the Migration Amendment (Immigration Detention Reform) Bill 2009**

By email to [legcon.sen@aph.gov.au](mailto:legcon.sen@aph.gov.au)

From  
Diane Gosden  
Date: 31/7/09

Dear Inquiry Secretary

As an Australian citizen, I support the recommendations proposed in the Migration Amendment (Immigration Detention Reform) Bill 2009.

It is an incremental step, but one which moves in a direction away from the human rights abuses and physical and mental harm which have accompanied policies and practices towards asylum seekers in Australia.

I therefore support the passage of this Bill. At the same time, I believe that the reforms of the Bill need to extend further. I support further reforms including:

The application of these recommendations to all Australian Territories.

The change from the status of children being detained only as 'a measure of last resort' to the status of children never being detained.

That the same health screening regime apply to asylum seekers as to other entrants from similar countries, and that asylum seekers do not need to be deprived of their liberty in this regard, as currently occurs.

That immigration detention should at least conform to the same standards as the mainstream detention system, with external judicial review with enforceable recommendations for release.

That there exist legislated time limits for security and identity checks, with accompanying judicial review mechanisms with enforceable recommendations if these are exceeded.

That Australia should abandon its stated policy of mandatory detention.

I thank the Committee for the opportunity to make this submission.

Yours sincerely

Diane Gosden