

To: Senate Legal and Constitutional Affairs Committee, Parliament
House,
Canberra

Re: Submission regarding Migration Amendment (prohibiting items in
immigration detention facilities) Bill 2017

From:

Dr. Diane Gosden

Dear Committee Secretary

I have long been concerned about the treatment, under Australian
policies, of people seeking asylum in Australia.

I have previously seen at first hand the detrimental impact of these
inhumane policies on the physical and mental health of adults and
children held in immigration detention centres (IDCs).

This Bill goes further in allowing the use of dogs, and gives
increased
powers to strip search detainees, and to search their possessions
without search warrants.

The Bill also gives the Minister of Immigration powers to determine
without scrutiny, what will be considered to be 'a prohibited thing'
in
regard to what is held by people in the IDCs or brought to them by
visitors. This essentially gives the Minister the right to un-
examined
power over people's lives.

This is unacceptable in a country which has prided itself on being
based
on democratic traditions.

As an Australian citizen, I ask you to reject this Bill.

Yours sincerely

Dr. Diane Gosden.