

Joint Select Committee on Australia's Immigration Detention Network

I would like you to consider the following in your deliberations.

End the indefinite nature of detention. Checks can be done within 30 days and any detention after this period should be decided by independent judicial review.

Ensure children and their families are removed from detention as promptly as practicable.

End remote detention. If people are moved through centres much quicker there will not be a need for more and more centres. Access to community groups, support and appropriate care is far more likely in and around our capital cities.

The impact, effectiveness and cost of mandatory detention

Mental health impacts of detention are well documented. 5 suicides in around 6 months, self harm, hunger strikes, people on suicide watch, isolation - none of this is effective.

The Minister himself has said that detention is a management tool not a deterrent. (Chris Bowen, [The Age 10 Feb 2011](#))

In the 2011-12 budget \$800 million has been allocated to detention costs, a tripling in just two years.

Indefinite detention is not the answer.

Please consider the paltry number of people we accept into our country and resist reacting to the pressure of the right wing media, the Coalition's spurious grasping for power and the dangerous erosion of Australian culture.

Thank you