

Dear sir or Madam,

I wish to formally oppose the passing of this Bill. Already this government is abrogating its responsibilities towards refugees under international law, being a signatory of the Refugee Convention.

The proposed bill expands the Minister's power to cancel visas on the flimsiest grounds. It is unnecessary, and it would set a dangerous precedent.

- It extends the power to cancel a visa on very insubstantial grounds, eg it could permit cancellation or refusal of visas for people who have received only a short sentence, no sentence at all, or a community corrections order
- It allows visas to be cancelled based on secret evidence and would deny migrants and refugees their right to justice
- the lack of review processes (a fundamental breach of procedural fairness) would surround decisions to deport people following visa cancellations – and this is likely to expand the risk of Australia not meeting its non-refoulement obligations
- **it would not provide any additional protection to the community** – the current laws already ensure that offenders are tried and prospected

Australia is too easily deporting people who have lived here for many years, including people who have been given protection as refugees. Citizens and non-citizens should be subject to our laws, serve appropriate sentences, and then be free to enjoy their liberty.

Thank you for considering this submission.

Keila Waksvik