

**From:** LIST ENER [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Sunday, 16 January 2022 5:06 PM  
**To:** [REDACTED]  
**Subject:** Submission re Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Immigration Detention Bill 2021

## To the Joint Standing Committee on Migration Inquiry:

Thank you for accepting my submission **in favour** of adopting **the Ending Indefinite and Arbitrary Immigration Detention Bill 2021**.

It is well overdue that Australia ends the inhumane treatment of refugees and asylum seekers, releases those currently in long-term detention and reunites families so that people can restore their lives.

MP Andrew Wilkie's Bill adheres to refugee and international human rights law and Australia must return to acting in accordance with such law.

Therefore, to finally end the current life-destroying practices and their consequences, I support an end to:

- the illegal, inhumane and arbitrary detention of refugees and non-citizens by the Australian government
- mandatory detention
- offshore processing
- boat tow-backs

I support the measures outlined in the Bill which, to our shame, are not currently in practice. These measures include:

- No discrimination based on the person's mode of travel
- Alternatives to Immigration detention being the preferred option.
- While claims are processed, refugees and non-citizens living in the community with study and work rights and access to essential government services.
- Detention being for the shortest possible time and regularly reviewed
- Detention being in Australia with the grounds explicitly identified
- The fundamental principle that people have a legal right to seek asylum and that this must be inserted in domestic law.
- No child being held in detention (unless circumstances prevent them being released).

As a wealthy nation we must take some responsibility for the situation confronted by so many people in our region who become refugees and asylum seekers as a last recourse. Giving more of them a future is not only humane but can also help their families left behind through financial and other assistance from Australia-based refugees. It can also diminish the probability of further human conflict and tragedy which ends up exacerbating the refugee situation and being of much greater cost to the Australian government and to the countries suffering such conditions. Refugees given half a chance are more than willing to play their part as active and contributing citizens to the Australian society and economy. Being held in detention for indefinite periods of time is abhorrent and also costly to the government.

In terms of general international relations, it would be nice for Australia to be a respected nation once more.

**Please adopt Andrew Wilkie's Bill.**

Maria Arranz  
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