

Rosie Wong

28 July 2009

Committee Secretary
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee
PO Box 6100
Parliament House
Canberra ACT 2600
Australia

Dear Committee Secretary

Submission about the immigration detention bill

I am writing to express the following:

That it is important that asylum values apply to Christmas Island instead of only to asylum seekers in mainland Australia, particularly when these values are something that addresses the detention of children, and most child asylum seekers are actually on Christmas Island.

I strongly urge for the Immigration Detention Reform Bill to state that children should not be detained in ANY type of secured detention facility. Right now, children are being detained in facilities that are detention centres in all but name, under guard supervision and unable to come or go freely. For the reform bill to mean real changes for human rights rather than something more superficial I re-state that this bill needs to specify that children should not be detained in any type of secured detention facility.

This bill needs also to detail measures including for independent and timely review of each person's detention, it is noted that the bill in its current form is lacking these and indeed any review measures: it allows a person to be detained for 6 months before any independent review by the Ombudsman, and to make things worse when the Ombudsman can come finally, their recommendations are not enforceable, it is left up to 'goodwill'. To be detained for 6 months just from one DIAC officer's decision is too long. Imagine if just one person can hold you up without freedom for 6 months.

Thankyou for reading my submission.

Yours faithfully
Rosie Wong