

**Submission to the Immigration Detention Reform Bill 2009:**

To the Committee Secretary  
Senate Legal and Constitutional Committee  
Parliament House  
Canberra ACT

Dear Secretary,

I request that in establishing the Detention Reform bill the Committee consider the following:

1. It is unjust that the protection of refugees, and in particular their children and children without families, does not apply in full on Christmas Island as it does in mainland Australia. I ask that the loss of full human rights of those people be restored by changes in the legislation.
2. Asylum seeker children should not be detained in any form of controlled, guarded immigration detention, regardless of it being named something else that hides its real nature.
3. Improvement in the review processes so that the degrading and harmful stress of asylum seekers waiting for long periods without knowing their future be improved. Automatic reviews and rights of visits and monitoring from refugee support groups and national and international human rights organisations should be legislated.

My motivation in making this submission is that I have seen and suffered first hand the bodily and mental harm done to detained asylum seekers and also to their supporters during the Howard Government era. It was a costly, degrading and destructive time which we must guard against with strong laws and human rights guarantees.

I commend those in government and others who have progressively improved the treatment of asylum seekers/refugees and removed the most draconian parts of immigration policy over the last 18 months.

Sincerely,

Allan Nield