

I understand that the Senate Standing Committee on Legal and Constitutional Affairs has invited submissions on the Immigration Detention Reform Bill, due by Friday 31 July, 2009.

I would like to make the following points on that matter:

- the detention values should apply to Christmas Island, not just mainland Australia. After all, most child asylum seekers are located on Christmas Island.
- the Immigration Detention Reform Bill should state that children should not be detained in any kind of secured immigration detention facility. Currently, children are being detained in facilities that are detention centres in all but name, under guard supervision and unable to come or go freely.
- the Immigration Detention Reform Bill should specify adequate measures for independent, timely review of a person's detention. The Bill in its present form does not include any review measures. Under present policy, a person can be detained for six months before any independent review (by the Ombudsman) and even then, the Ombudsman's recommendations are not enforceable. Six months is too long to be detained on the decision of just one DIAC official.

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Best Regards,

*David Sykes*